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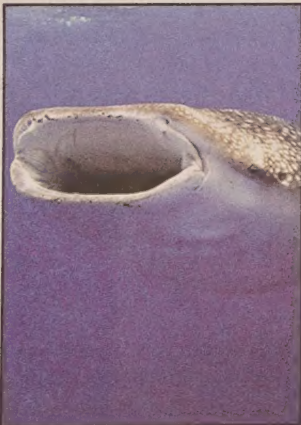
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Spring Fair books State Radio for concert

By **RIAN DAWSON**
Staff Writer

State Radio and Forever the Sickest Kids will be performing at the Spring Fair outdoor concert on April 23.

Concert organizers admitted that the acts are not well-known, a result of limited funding and a desire to cater the band selection to what students requested through polling.

"The reason why we're not having as big an act is because ticket sales last year were down," Spring Fair Executive Co-Chair Zach Senders said.

He estimated that only around 1000 tickets were sold for The Roots concert last year. Between 1,800 and 2,000 tickets were sold for the concert featuring Reel Big Fish and Bone Thugs-N-Harmony in 2008.

"If people like the concert and want a bigger act, the best thing they can do is buy tickets," Senders said. "Every dollar from tickets sold to students goes directly into purchasing an act. It goes right back into a fund that's used to bid on an act for next year."

While Spring Fair organizers would not speak to the specific costs for each act, Senders said that the cost of State Radio was less than The Roots.

The budget for all of Spring Fair is estimated at around \$50,000. According to Senders, each year Spring Fair receives \$10,000 from the Hopkins Organization for Programming (HOP) and the Student Government Association (SGA).

This year, requests for additional funding brought in \$5,000 from HOP and an undisclosed amount from SGA.

To compensate for the money lost last year, the committee worked on different fundraising strategies, including soliciting corporations for money.

Concert Co-Chair Shant Keskinyan used a connection at the company that produces Vitamin Water to negotiate a sponsorship agreement.

SEE *SPRING FAIR*, PAGE A7



Hopkins launches volunteer program

By **MARIE CUSHING**
Editor-in-Chief

On Tuesday, Hopkins President Ronald Daniels announced a volunteer partnership between the University and the Baltimore City school system.

The program, Johns Hopkins Takes Time for Schools, would allow the University's 14,000 faculty and staff members to take two paid days

leave per year to pursue volunteer opportunities at local public schools.

"We support our employees in answering the call for volunteers in Baltimore city schools," Daniels said.

"We know an education can transform a student's life, inspiring a curiosity that stays with a student forever."

In addition to direct student
SEE *JHU TAKES TIME*, PAGE A6

Top: University President Ronald Daniels was greeted by students at Barclay Elementary/Middle School. *Right:* Councilwoman Mary Pat Clarke reads *Amelia Bedelia* to second graders.



DANIEL LITWIN/PHOTO EDITOR

Students advocate for anti-drunk driving bill

By **STEPHANIE DELMAN**
Copy Editor

Approximately 20 Hopkins students traveled to Annapolis yesterday in support of senior Natalie Draisin's efforts to pass the "Drunk Driving Elimination Act" through the House of Representatives.

Draisin became involved with the legislation shortly after her friend and sorority sister Miriam Frankl was killed in a hit-and-run in October. The alleged driver was Thomas

Meighan, who had previously been convicted of driving under the influence (DUI) several times.

"After Miriam's death, I was obviously upset, but the way I make myself feel better is to go and do something about it," Draisin said.

"We could sit and mourn forever, but if we don't do something about [drunk driving], who knows how many more people we could lose?"

The bill would require all individuals with a DUI conviction to install an interlocking Breathalyzer on their car ignitions.

This would prevent the engine from starting unless the driver's Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) is under the legal limit of .025. The device would also record the BAC to be used as evidence in court.

The bill, known as House Bill 743 on the floor, was presented



COURTESY OF STEPHANIE DELMAN
Student Natalie Draisin and representatives from Mothers Against Drunk Driving testified on Wednesday.

by a team consisting of Draisin, members of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) and legislative sponsors Delegate Ben Kramer (D-19) and Delegate Tanya Shewell (R-5A).

This was not the first time such a bill had been proposed.

Similar legislation made it through the Senate last year before being shelved at the House level — this time, Draisin wanted to make sure the bill would move on.

After Frankl's death, Draisin felt devastated and searched for a way to make a
SEE *HOUSE BILL*, PAGE A8

Undergrad arrested for domestic assault

By **CYDNEY WEINER**
For *The News-Letter*

Junior Norman Chiang was arrested and charged with second-degree assault after a reported incident of domestic assault, according to Baltimore Police Detective Kevin Hagan.

On Feb. 6 at 3:35 a.m. a sophomore female student notified the Baltimore City Police of unwanted violence from her boyfriend during an argument at the Homewood Apartments.

Baltimore City Police and Hopkins Security responded to the scene where the female student had locked herself in the bathroom.

After the student came out of the bathroom, police determined that the suspect had struck her, knocking her against an object that cut the left side of her face.

SEE *ASSAULT*, PAGE A7



ELAINE YU/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Students donned their finest attire as the FFC was transformed to replicate Oxford.

High Table gives freshman class a taste of tradition

By **LAURA MUTH and SARAH TAN**
News & Features Editors

On Tuesday night Hopkins hosted its first High Table, an event designed to bring together freshmen and faculty to facilitate intellectual discussion outside the classroom.

The event began with short speeches by freshman class president Wyatt Larkin, Dean Paula Burger of Undergraduate Education, President Ronald Daniels and Reverend Albert Mosley of

the Interfaith Center. About 440 students attended.

Burger explained that while she had wanted to try an event like this at Hopkins for some time, this year seemed to bring together all the necessary elements to accomplish it.

"I have had it in mind to do this for several years and was waiting to see if any students grabbed hold of this," she wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

Both she and Dave Furhman, the Head of Dining, credited
SEE *HIGH TABLE*, PAGE A7

University mourns death of professor

M. Gordon Wolman, 85, founded Department of Geography and Environmental Engineering

By **LILY NEWMAN**
Managing Editor

Hopkins students, both graduate and undergraduate, are mourning the loss of a professor who was a leader in his field, an inspirational teacher and dedicated mentor.

M. Gordon "Reds" Wolman, nicknamed for his red hair, made a strong impact on the University during his 52 years as a faculty member.

A pioneer in fluvial processes and water resources management, Wolman was known for his dedication to interdisciplinary teaching and his true generosity of spirit.

Since Wolman's death on Feb. 24 at the age of 85, the Homewood community has entered a sort of nostalgic frenzy, scrambling to share and record memories of one of Hopkins' best-loved professors.

This surge in activity seems to be the only fitting tribute for a man described by many as "driven."

Reds was part of the Hopkins community from the beginning of his life.

His father, Abel Wolman, was a groundbreaking sanitary engineer and established Hopkins' Department of Sanitary Engineering in 1937. Following in his father's

footsteps, Reds received a B.A. in Geology from Hopkins in 1949, and, after doing his doctoral work at Harvard, returned in 1958 as chair of the Department of Geography.

At the same time that he was establishing himself at Hopkins, Reds was also building the foundation of his research career.

Beginning with his work as a U.S. Geological Survey hydrologist during the 1950's, Reds used fieldwork to gain a body of knowledge and life experience that propelled him to the head of his field.

In 1964 he and two colleagues,
SEE *WOLMAN*, PAGE A8

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Historian Max Boot and serviceman Matthew Hoh discuss wars in Afghanistan and Iraq

By **HUSAIN DANISH**
Magazine Editor

The ongoing wars in Afghanistan and Iraq were the focus of the Foreign Affairs Symposium (FAS) on March 3.

The panel discussion, moderated by Steven David, professor and director of the International Studies program, featured Max Boot, a historian and supporter of the surge in Afghanistan.

He was joined by Matthew Hoh, a former Marine Corps captain and foreign service official who served in Afghanistan.

In Oct. 2009, Hoh resigned his position in the State Department over his objections to the increase involvement of the United States in the Afghanistan war.

"For someone to resign from the State Department on grounds of moral principle is a big deal," said David.

"Even if you disagree with Matt, you can at least admire his conviction."

Boot expressed a similar sentiment.

"I do not agree with Matt, but I definitely respect him for holding true to his principles," Boot said.

Hoh began the discussion by emphasizing the complexity of the difficult situation on the ground in Afghanistan.

"Two intelligent people can go their, interact with the people and the troops, see first hand what is happening there, and

still come out with two different views," Hoh said.

Much of Hoh's part of the discussion focused on the history of Afghanistan following the collapse of the nation's monarchy in 1975.

According to Hoh, the country has been in an ongoing civil war for the last 30 years.

"Afghanistan is a political civil war and that's why I see no reason to be there," Hoh said.

Hoh argued that, on multiple levels, the country is and has been engaging in a civil war between different tribes, social classes and religious sects.

"In Afghanistan, every family loses at least one child," Hoh said.

"This is a terribly poor and desperate society. These people hold strongly to their traditions and honor and it is something they will fight for. The underlying ethnic and cultural differences cannot be bridged. What benefits are there to the United States?"

Boot argued that the past failures of the US war effort in Afghanistan are not due to a

misunderstanding of the war but a mishandling of forces and resources.

"Things have been getting worst in Afghanistan over the last few years," Boot said.

"The Taliban have regrouped and staged a comeback. Not because they are popular with the people, but [because] they have done so through intimidation and violence."

Boot compared the American strategy in Afghanistan to mowing a lawn.

"I was once told by a commander that fighting the war there is like mowing the lawn," Boot said.

"Once you mow the lawn and leave, it just grows back. We need a permanent government presence in the areas after the fighting is over."

"That population centric plan did not exist before. If we have a smart, well resourced counter insurgency in the country, that [failure] will not happen," Boot added.

Hoh disagreed with Boot's interpretation of the current American strategy.

"The Soviets had an ongoing

presence in Afghanistan throughout the 1980s," Hoh said.

"They had over 3000 economic advisors in the country, trying to develop it. We need political negotiations to restabilize the country. I believe the Taliban is tired and they want to just go back home. Anything, I believe, is better than the status quo."

In the second part of the discussion, Boot and Hoh focused on the Iraq war.

"We have gone from 36000 Iraqi civilian deaths in 2006 to 300 deaths in 2009, a 90 percent decrease," Boot said. "People have returned to the streets. Ghost towns have come alive again."

Boot argued that the US should maintain a small military presence in Iraq even after the scheduled withdrawal in 2011.

"Fissures in Iraq run so deep that it will take time to heal . . . we should negotiate a treaty with Iraq to allow for a continued presence in the country, similar to the current situation in places like Bosnia and Herzegovina," Boot said.



COURTESY OF BRITANNICA.COM

Speakers at the Foreign Affairs Symposium discussed civilian-based issues currently posing problems in Afghanistan and Iraq as a result of the wars located in those countries.

Hoh expressed a similar sentiment about the current situation in Iraq.

"2010 may be as important for Iraq as 2003," Hoh said.

"After my first deployment, my opinion was that we needed to get out of here as quickly as possible and that the situation at hand was hopeless."

"After my second deployment at the end of 2007, I believed that we needed to stay there. In many ways, we were the glue holding

the country together."

Attendance at the event was sparse.

However, many of those in attendance were impressed by the panel discussion.

"It was extremely good," senior Andrew Aklaghi said.

"Boot was particularly impressive. It was great to get two highly visible figures in this area who disagree with each other to sit down and have a civilized debate."

Up-and-coming feminist club to address gender issues on campus

While not yet official, the new group is developing plans to host female speakers and to amend the HOP constitution

By **SARAH SCHULMAN**
Staff Writer

Hopkins has a new student group in the works. Tentatively called the JHU Feminists, this club, founded by junior Yelena Tsilker, will be dedicated to raising awareness about the existence of gender inequalities both at Hopkins in the world at large.

Influenced by her involvement in JHU's Sexual Assault Response Unit (SARU), Tsilker hopes that the creation of this group will help women avoid sexual assault as well as educate themselves on the variety of services out there to assist in the event of an issue.

She also hopes that the creation of such a group will help to make women's issues a greater topic of discussion on campus.

Tsilker feels that many Hopkins women are so focused on their work and school lives that they rarely ponder the question of how they feel as women on campus.

"It's not an issue that is on many people's minds. [Feminist issues] usually go unnoticed until something huge happens," Tsilker said.

"We want to make people aware of Planned Parenthood, and the support available after an encounter, as well as places to find out about the morning after pill."

Tsilker also added that the group has plans to speak with someone about introducing gender relations courses into the Hopkins curriculum.

"Last semester, I went abroad to the UK. Their sociology department had mandatory courses in race relations, poverty and class relations, and gender relations. [The course focused on] the very basic divisions people make within society," Tsilker said.

"Our Gender and Women's Studies department is mostly a hodgepode of other classes and our Sociology department doesn't offer that kind of course, a 'let's tackle the big issue' sort of class."

She also stated that the fundamentals aren't really addressed or mandatory for sociology majors here.

"[Women's issues alone] don't seem to be a pillar here," she said.

Tsilker also addressed the fact that though Tucker Max was not the sole reason for the creation of such a group, it was

a catalyst.

"Tucker Max was partially an impetus. Just because something is humorous doesn't mean it can't contribute to a culture where objectifying women becomes okay. Not everyone who hears a rape joke will hurt someone, but it will make it more likely for people to blame the victim."

In the statement she submitted to the SAC in order to request funding for the group, Tsilker said their goal was to, "create a more egalitarian campus where everyone can feel safe and comfortable," and later remarked, "Tucker Max really hurt that safety."

Junior Becca Love, another student interested in being a part of the JHU Feminists, said in an e-mail to *The News-Letter*, "I think there are a lot of things a feminist group can do on campus, because gender issues are really important to our University and our society and because feminists get an unnecessarily bad rap."

Love would like to be as involved as possible and focus on tackling student perceptions of rape and sexual assault.

"There is a myth that rape is something strangers do to you in back alleys, and that you can avoid it if you just take the right precautions," Love said.

She notes, however, that many studies show the falsity of this claim.

"You are most likely to be raped by someone you know in your or their residence."

As Love pointed out, this misinformation leads to a lot of blame being placed on the victim.

"We have these internalized myths that victims often cry rape to avoid the stigma of sex, that allegations of rape happen because of misunderstandings between people having sex, etc."

She said that these ideas are not true and that they are hurting people.

"I think a feminist group can spread this message to the campus."

Although the group has not yet met officially to discuss any of the issues on the table, many interested students have joined the Facebook event and posted requests as well as topics they wish to address on the group's wall.

Some of the actions they would like to take include choosing the freshman summer reading assignment and running orientation sessions to pro-

vide women with information on how to avoid sexual assault and men with pointers on how to stop it.

The group has also discussed amending the Hopkins Organization for Programming (HOP) constitution.

Although due to being abroad last semester, Tsilker is still unfamiliar with the amendment proposal, she did remark that "some people want to amend the constitution but we need to meet first. I personally would like to see how other groups such as DSAGA and BSU would feel about asking for a clause, which would prohibit the invitation of speakers who are racist and homophobic."

Love, who was present for the discussion, confirmed that the members are considering this idea.

"It's an idea we've thrown around. In my opinion, I think it is inappropriate to take University money to pay for somebody to come in and say something that a faculty or staff member could not have said without putting his or her job in jeopardy."

She said that the group is not trying to restrict the speakers brought in by the HOP, MSE or FAS, but that if they are to bring in someone, the money should be raised through fundraising efforts, not with University money.

Love also added that the SGA is aware of its plans to create an amendment, though it has not been explicitly discussed yet.

"They know we are talking about it, but we haven't submitted a form. We've been talking about a bunch of different ways to do that."

Love would like the group to help publicize Hopkins Security's self-defense class for women, and offer it more frequently.

"I'm also hoping our new feminist group can look into how the University treats allegations of sexual assault and rape, and help demystify this process for rape victims," Love said.

She also wants to raise money for domestic violence shelters in the area and ignite a dialogue among students about the constructions of femininity and masculinity.

The group will also be open to men. The group wants to allow men to do traditionally feminine activities and vice versa.

"Feminists are not just women. We're not man-haters," Tsil-

Do you support women's rights and gender equality? Do you think that every person should have a voice on and off campus, that every person deserves equal opportunities and bodily autonomy, regardless of sex or gender?

These and other issues are why Hopkins needs a feminist group, and this is why we would like to start JHU Feminists: a student group seeking to raise awareness of gender, gender inequalities, and the particular concerns of women.

If you're interested in joining and would like to help work towards a fairer and more accepting campus, please join this group. Since Student Life needs a preliminary list of members for any group, please also post or e-mail Yelena Tsilker your:
-full name
-JHED ID
-year in school
-e-mail address

COURTESY OF JHU FEMINISTS

The call has gone out for those interested in becoming members of JHU Feminists, a student group with plans to organize.

er said. She also hopes that the group will raise awareness on gender roles as well as inequalities.

Tsilker has asked Lecturer and Associate Director of the Program for the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality, Aaron Goodfellow, to be the faculty advisor for the group.

However, due to the club's youthful status, its members have yet to meet with Goodfellow to discuss his role. He was unable to answer any questions at this time.

According to Jason Heiserman, Director of Student Activities, in order to become a full-fledged SAC-funded club, the group must first be approved by the Student Government Association [SGA] which involves an application, interview and mandatory workshop.

"If approved by the SGA, groups are eligible to apply for SAC funding one year later," Heiserman said.

Although Heiserman said that he has always been supportive of students creating a group for a cause, he felt that it was difficult for him to predict at this point if the group would receive funding.

He stated that that matter was more up to the students themselves. He also added that the approval of their amendment was dependent on the SGA.

"I am always encouraged by students rallying around a cause and wanting to make a difference. [Their amendment] would have to be approved by the SGA which is the governing body for both the SAC and HOP organizations, and so it is dependent on how the SGA feels about that issue," Heiserman said.

SGA vice president Evan Lazerowitz noted that he had heard of the JHU Feminists group but he denied to comment on its likelihood of being accepted.

"Every group gets a fair shake," Lazerowitz said. "[They] go through a pretty standard process that has nothing to do with the content of the group."

Lazerowitz was able to comment on the likelihood of their amendment passing.

Though he believes that the HOP and the SGA might be opposed to changing the constitution, he said the HOP would be willing to work with any group that had issues, as they are not trying to offend anyone.

"I would say 99 percent of the SGA would be opposed to restricting the freedom of any group. Any attempt to formalize that would be against our constitution. However, a comedian is always going to offend someone, and that is one of [the HOP's] major programming events."

Lazerowitz felt that changing the SGA constitution would be very difficult but he also said he would be willing to work with the group if such an amendment is proposed.

Thus far, Tsilker has submitted the online application to student life and is planning on attending the prospective student group meeting on Thursday.

This past Tuesday, Tsilker met with a few people from the Feminists Majority Foundation, a national non-profit, and got some ideas from them.

"We talked about general sorts of things I could do for events, practical things," she said.

"I would like to find out if we have a Women's Resource Center, I have been told we had one but I'm not sure if it still exists. If so,

I'd like to get people to be more aware of that."

The group hopes to hold an unofficial meeting next Monday, International Women's Day, to discuss what actions would most benefit the student population, what events people would most respond to, and what issues group members are most passionate about.

"I want to talk about faculty and tenure, women in the classroom, reproductive health, and how best to go about tackling those issues."

Tsilker added that she hopes the group will also be able to host events and take political action.

In terms of events, she is interested in bringing in speakers for Women's History Month.

"It would be cool if the school brought in women that are very accomplished in their field. [I don't just want to look at] how women aren't as privileged."

Tsilker would also like the group to advocate for health care reform, and make it take women into greater consideration.

"I'd like to help out with pro-choice, volunteer to walk people to appointments at Planned Parenthood, and work with women's shelters and places specializing in helping women in the area," she said.

The group is not however affiliated with Students for Choice or any other group as of now.

Tsilker is unsure of how much they will be able to accomplish in the time remaining this semester, but she hopes to make more headway next year.

The group, which has posted an event on Facebook for its first meeting, currently has 32 members.

Hopkins to add lab space

Falk convinces Board to create new laboratories in Mudd

By **KELSEY DONOHUE**
For *The News-Letter*

In February, the Hopkins Board of Trustees approved a plan to build 19,000 square feet of lab space for undergraduates, proposed by Adam Falk, Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences. The University's plan will cost approximately \$60 million. The labs will be connected to Mudd Hall, adding a fourth side to the U-shaped building.



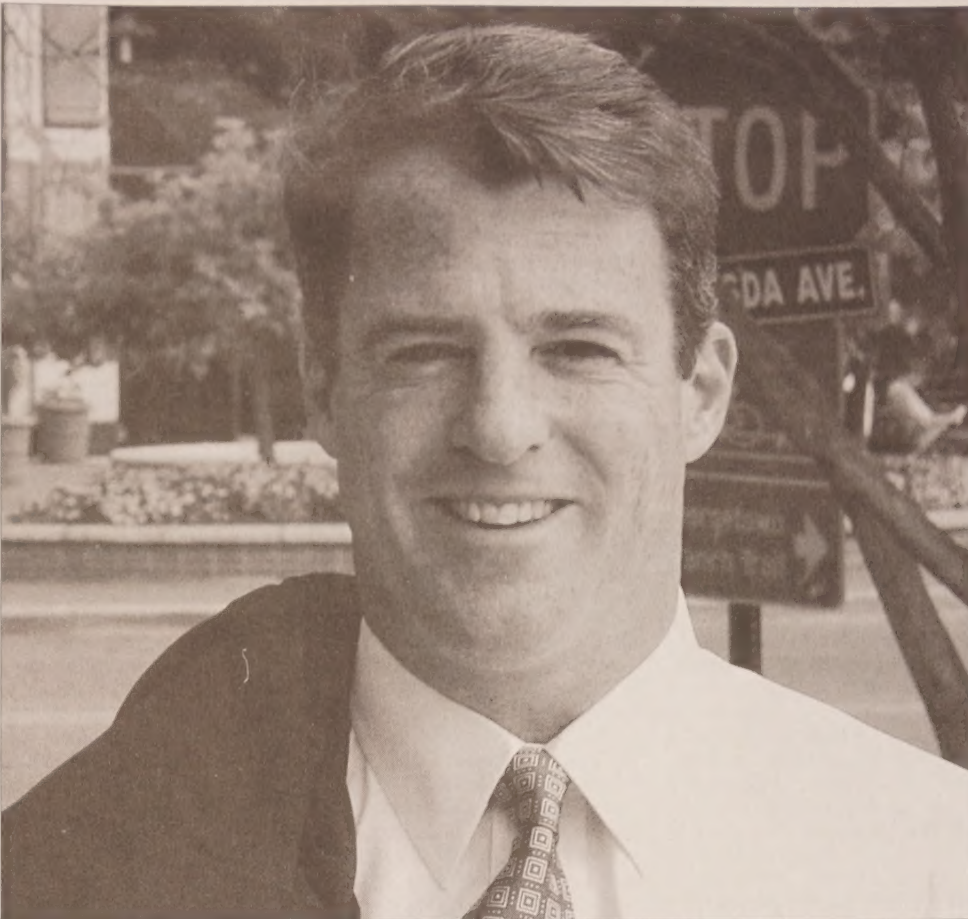
ELAINE YU/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
The new undergraduate lab space proposed by Dean Falk will be added on to Mudd Hall.

Designing the project will take roughly a year so construction will begin in the summer of 2011 and should be complete by the fall of 2013. "Our existing laboratory facilities are safe and functional, but they are also too small and inflexible, not to mention unattractive. We would like to modernize our laboratory courses and develop new ways of teaching, and none of this is really possible in the current facility," Falk wrote in an e-mail to *The News-Letter*. The initial stage of the process was a feasibility study. "The purpose of the study was to see how big a building we would need, where it would be and how much that would cost and what we could do for that cost. On the basis of that feasibility study we went to the

Board of Trustees and the Building and Grounds Committee of the Board approved the project," Falk wrote. Falk explained that this would be a several-part process. "The feasibility study will then be part of what goes in to a full design of the building, which has not happened yet. The next step will be the selection of an architect," he wrote. Falk feels that this project will do for science-minded under-

graduate lab space. "Most of the space will be used to allow us to move the undergraduate laboratories to a new state-of-the-art facility," he wrote in an e-mail to *The News-Letter*. Many of the labs are old space that has served us well, but needed to be renewed and updated." Faculty members who used the labs also felt the need for new space. "All the lab instructors and the departments that sponsor them expressed a need for additional space to enhance the experience of students working in the labs," Ball wrote. Falk agrees that while current space is adequate, modernization is needed. "Our existing teaching laboratory facilities are safe and functional, and students get a great education in them, but they are also too small and inflexible, not to mention unattractive," he wrote. "We would like to modernize our laboratory courses and develop new ways of teaching, and none of this is really possible in the present facility."

"Most of the undergraduate students who pass through Hopkins take some part of our introductory science curriculum, and it is important that our science teaching be as modern and effective as possible." While the labs will be mostly dedicated solely to undergraduate use, they will also occasionally be used by biotechnology master's students in the Krieger School's Advanced Academic Programs. In the future the University is also considering having the biology and chemistry labs centered within one building, to encourage coordination and cross-disciplinary education. "This would allow faculty and lecturers to work together to coordinate the labs better and develop new labs, which cut across traditional disciplines," Ball said. There is currently a faculty committee discussing implementing this change in the future. Ball is excited about the project. "It will greatly enhance the undergraduate experience at Hopkins," he wrote.



COURTESY OF LIBUMDEDU
Maryland Attorney General Douglas Gansler said that Maryland should recognize same-sex marriages performed outside the state.

A.G. addresses same-sex marriage

By **REBECCA FISHBEIN**
News & Features Editor

Maryland supporters of same-sex marriage have a new fight in store for them as members of the state government turn up the heat on the controversial issue. State Attorney General Douglas Gansler has stated that Maryland should recognize same-sex marriages performed in states that have legalized the act, such as New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Iowa and Vermont. Maryland law defines marriage as being between a man and a woman. However, the law also says that benefits should be extended to anyone granted a legal marriage license in the United States, regardless of whether or not the license would be granted in Maryland. Many delegates, such as Baltimore City District 43 Delegate Maggie McIntosh, support Gansler's stance towards same-sex marriage. "I think it's a step forward in progress for marriage equality," McIntosh said. "[Other states] recognize our marriages, so we should recognize theirs." Students at Hopkins who support same-sex marriage are also in favor of Gansler's position.

"At the end of the day, this is an equal rights issue," said Daniel Barash, President of the Hopkins College Democrats. "We believe the right thing to do is to support the Attorney General, and to get Maryland institutions to recognize same-sex marriages from other states. This is one of the issues that mobilizes our members most." But several more conservative-minded politicians are not pleased with Gansler's position. Senator Norman Stone, who is a Democrat, has proposed a bill that would prevent the state of Maryland from recognizing same-sex marriages by invalidating marriage licenses from out of state. Stone's bill, which is similar to a now-defunct bill proposed by Delegate Emmett Burns earlier this year, has been harshly criticized by groups such as Equality Maryland, the state's largest LGBT civil rights advocacy organization. "In response to [Gansler's] opinion, Sen. Stone said that he believes that if people 'strongly believe in same-sex marriages, they should go live in those states' that allow it," Equality Maryland's Executive Director Morgan Meneses-Sheets wrote in an e-mail to *The News-Letter*. "We are not going anywhere. We are going to keep up the fight at [bill] hearings this week, into the elections this fall, until we achieve equality."

Opponents of same-sex marriage refuse to back down, including Anne Arundel County Republican Delegate Don Dwyer, Jr., who is attempting to have Gansler impeached. However, many feel that Dwyer's push for Gansler's impeachment will carry little weight. "Dwyer is the lead sponsor on the constitutional amendment to ban marriage between same-sex marriage," Meneses-Sheets wrote. "This seems like a desperate move to gain attention." According to McIntosh, Dwyer has no legal precedent to impeach Gansler. "There will be, in the next few days, a petition to impeach the Attorney General," she said. "That petition will be presented on the floor, but we have looked at the Constitution, and [Dwyer] has no authority over the impeachment of the Attorney General." The Constitution of the State of Maryland, according to McIntosh, puts impeachment in the hands of the judicial branch, rather than the legislative. "The Constitution outlines three reasons to impeach, all of which have to be found in the judicial system," she said. "Nothing's going to happen here with the Attorney General. There will be a ruling that it's out of order." Even many of the Hopkins College Republicans see the move to impeach the Attorney General as unnecessary. "I understand that the Republican party is seen as anti-gay

marriage, but I'm a big state's rights guy, and this is a state's rights issue," said Douglas Tonkinson, president of the Hopkins College Republicans. "The Attorney General seems to be doing his job here." McIntosh stated that Gansler's opinion on same-sex marriage would likely influence the court. "My understanding is that what will probably happen is that couples married in states allowing same-sex marriage will try to enroll in Maryland, and will be challenged in the courts," she said. "The courts will decide the issue, which is the right thing to do. Hopefully the courts will follow the opinion of the Attorney General, so marriage that is legal in other states will be recognized in this state." Joseph Shapiro, a spokesperson for Comptroller Peter Franchot, said the Comptroller's Office, which is in charge of state taxes, stands behind the move to recognize out-of-state marriages, and has already begun to prepare for an influx of same-sex couples. "In general, the Comptroller supports [Gansler's opinion]," Shapiro said. "Our agency is reviewing any implications that could result from a [court decision]." Many private companies and organizations, including Hopkins, already offer benefits to those in same-sex unions. "Hopkins has offered same-sex partner benefits for years, regardless of whether you are legally married," said Carlton Raiter, a consultant at the University's Benefits Service Center. "We require an affidavit stating [couples] are in a committed same-sex partnership, but [same-sex partners] are entitled to everything including medical and dental benefits." According to Gary Stephenson, the Senior Associate Director of Media Relations at the Hopkins Hospital, those involved in same-sex unions are not denied advantages afforded to those who are legally married in Maryland. "We give same-sex partners the same benefits as married couples," he said. These benefits include the right to visiting a spouse or domestic partner in the hospital and the right to make medical decisions for a spouse. The fight for same-sex marriage in Maryland does not stop at recognizing out-of-state marriages. McIntosh, along with Delegates Curt Anderson, Ben Barnes, and others, have sponsored the Religious Freedom and Civil Marriage Protection Act, which would make same-sex marriage legal in Maryland. Same-sex marriage is legal and currently performed in four states, as well as in Washington, D.C. The Senate hearing for McIntosh's bill will take place on March 12. The hearing for Stone's bill takes place on Thursday.

National Cancer Institute moving to Montgomery Co. campus

By **TARIQ NOAMAN**
For *The News-Letter*

On Feb. 24, Hopkins announced that the National Cancer Institute (NCI) will be relocated to the Shady Grove Life Sciences Center on the University's Montgomery County campus in Rockville, Md. The NCI is a federally funded research institution under the National Institute of Health (NIH). Approximately 2,100 of its research personnel and support staff will be relocated to a 575,000 square foot, LEED certified complex that is to be completed by the first quarter of 2013. The JHU and the NCI hope that this move will result in a new relationship centered upon the facilitation of vital research. "All over the country, people are trying to connect government research, academia and the private sector in a single community that facilitates the exchange of research ideas and discovery . . . It is an opportunity for us to have an ongoing day to day exchange of information [with the NCI]," said Elaine Amir, Director of the Montgomery County Campus.

Brooke Hardison Wang, an NCI spokesperson, noted that the lease for the NCI's current space is due to expire in 2012. A year-long bidding competition was conducted by The General Services Agency (GSA), a federal agency, to find a cost-effective site that met technical selection criteria created by the NCI. Though the NCI will be relocated to a Hopkins institution, the JBG Companies, a D.C. Metropolitan area real estate developer, will both finance the construction of the complex and manage it once completed. Tracy Reeves, the Director of the Hopkins Office of News and Information, said that the land lease deal between the JHU and the JBG Companies has not been made public. Reeves was not sure of the number of jobs this move would attract but mentioned that the move "should" create jobs. Brian Dembeck, executive director of the Office of Johns Hopkins Real Estate, said that the JHU had a vested interest in retaining its "stellar relationship" with the NCI. "Secondly, the University sought 'collaboration with partners to expand the use of its land

in Montgomery County,'" he said. The new NCI complex is being built on what is currently a surface parking lot. Dembeck estimated the cost of the project at \$150 million. The Montgomery campus provides meeting spaces for scientists and faculty to meet casually instead of in formal settings. Fifteen private biotech companies and research centers are also located within the vicinity of the

campus. One of the centers, the Microscopy Center, is run by a Hopkins faculty member from the Whiting School of Engineering. Amir emphasized the role of the campus in the economy. "We want to encourage clinical trials, discovery and research that can become commercialized in a way that gives entrepreneurs the opportunities to create companies and jobs," she said.



COURTESY OF JHUGAZETTE.COM
Hopkins' bid to have NCI move to its Montgomery County Campus was successful.

The University sought collaboration with partners to expand the use of its land in Montgomery County.

—BRIAN DEMBECK,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
JOHNS HOPKINS REAL
ESTATE

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NEWS & FEATURES

Things I've Learned, with physics theorist and professor Bruce Barnett

By **JULIA DISCHELL**
For *The News-Letter*

Although Bruce Barnett, a professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy at Hopkins, is most known for holding class during last month's Snowmageddon, in the science world, he is most famous for working on extensive physics projects like the Large Hadron Collider (LHC). This week, *The News-Letter* sat down with Barnett to talk about quarks, leptons and cooking hot dogs.

News-Letter (N-L): Tell me about the LHC.

Bruce Barnett (BB): The LHC is a new machine in Geneva, Switzerland at the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN), and it will collide protons on protons. It has been built in a tunnel that exists from a previous experiment, an accelerator that collided electrons and positrons called LEP for the large electron positron collider. That machine was constructed especially to collide electrons and positrons to create a particle that is called the Z0 particle. The Z0 is a particle that is partially responsible for radioactive decay and the weak force.

Before the LHC was built, there was a proposal to build a large machine, another hadron collider, down in Texas. Hadrons are protons and neutrons and particles like that. It was called the super collider. It was approved and under construction, but then during the Clinton administration, there was a shortage of funds and construction ceased.

That then left the CERN laboratory with the ability to make the LHC. It's a lower-energy machine than that which had been proposed in the United States. CERN proposed to put in a proton-proton collider in the tunnel that already existed from the LEP. Since they did not have to build a new tunnel, that saved a lot of money. It also fixed the parameters of the accelerator. It's taken more than 10 years to build the LHC. The scientists involved have put in the world's best superconducting magnets, and the

protons are now colliding.

N-L: What do you hope to find out with the LHC?

BB: The goal is to learn some things about particle physics that we clearly don't know now. We have what is called the standard model of particle physics that includes quarks, gluons and leptons, like electrons. The quarks come in six flavors — up, down, charm, strange, to, and bottom. Both protons and neutrons are made up of up and down quarks, so everything you see around you then would consist of up and down quarks and electrons. So all the atoms we know now are made of up quarks, down quarks and electrons held together by electric forces, and the quarks are held together by what is called a strong force, which involves gluons that mediate the strong force.

The standard model includes six quarks, six leptons, the electromagnetic force, the Ws and the Zs that give you the weak force, and the gluons that give you the strong force that holds particles together. That model works very well, almost perfectly at the present accelerator energies. However, if you take that model and extrapolate the calculations of the probabilities to higher energies — higher than that of the present accelerators — some things become clearly unrealistic. We know that the probability of something happening can never be greater than 100 percent, yet for some of the formulas, when you extrapolate at the higher energies the probabilities of some things become greater than that. Clearly, that means that there is something wrong with the standard model and something must be missing. There has to be something that Mother Nature and Father Time have been making that we don't know about.

N-L: Do the physicists have any theories?

BB: Yes. The most popular theory is related back to the question of what exactly is mass. In the standard model, all of the particles have zero mass. Obviously, humans do not have zero mass, so there has to be something

added to the model to produce mass and prevent these probabilities from being greater than 100 percent. The popular prediction is that there is a new particle, or particles called the Higgs particle. Basically the Higgs particle would interact with other particles — the quarks, the leptons, the Ws and Zs, and if it interacts a lot with them, they will have a heavy mass and if it interacts with them only a little bit, they will have a small mass.

The theorists have predicted what the mass of the Higgs particle should be, and it ought to be in the range where, if it exists with the properties that they predict it to have, we should be able to produce it at the LHC. So that's one of the primary goals, one of the primary reasons for building this accelerator.

There is another theory predicting that for each of the particles we now know, there would be a brother particle. This is called supersymmetry. Basically, this means that each particle has a brother particle that differs from it by half a unit of spin. We also hope to find proof of this with the LHC.

N-L: How much more advanced is the LHC from particle accelerators that have existed in the past?

BB: Previously, the highest energy collider is at Fermilab outside of Chicago called the Tevatron. It collides protons and antiprotons versus the LHC, which collides protons and protons. Using protons alone is more expensive than using protons and antiprotons, but an accelerator that uses only protons would create more collisions, and therefore more energy. Also, the LHC is larger than the Tevatron, and thus has a higher event rate and a higher energy.

N-L: What does your research involve here at Hopkins?

BB: I am one of the five experimental particle physicists here at Johns Hopkins. I have several colleagues, and we all work together. Those other professors are Morris Schwartz, Barry Blumenfeld, Andrei Gritsan, and Petar Maksimovic and Chih-Yung

Chien. We have one grant with the National Science Foundation (NSF) which we use to do research in experimental particle physics, so anything I say applies to them as well. It's a group effort with a group of post-doctoral students and graduate students, and undergraduate students and so on, so they also need significant credit.

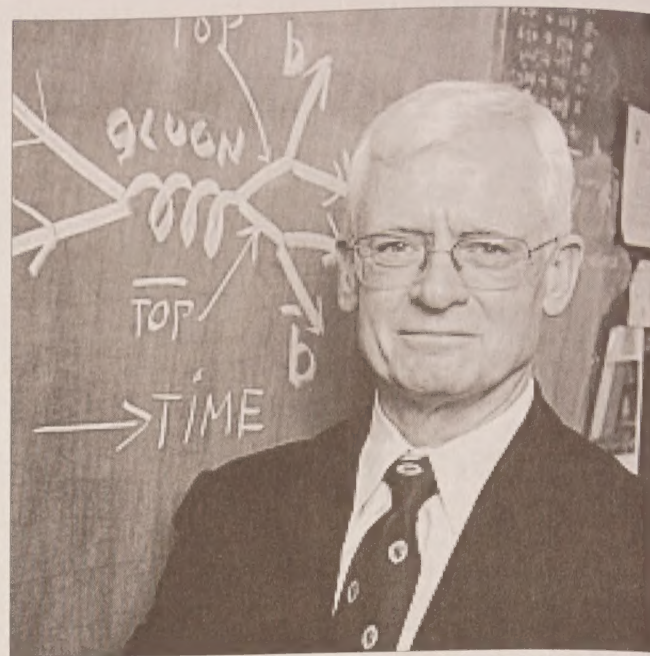
We have been working on a project called Compact Muon Spectrometer (CMS), which has to do with vertex detectors, that are the closest you can get to where the beams actually collide. They see particles that can travel a very small distance before they decay. We worked on this hardware for the Tevatron at Fermilab, and when the CMS project started, we worked on the vertex detectors necessary for that. We were involved in designing, constructing and testing them, and then they were sent to CERN. Basically, our work with the hardware is done. More recently, the group has been involved with all of the software associated with utilizing the hardware.

N-L: What drew you to physics?

BB: I grew up in Ohio on a farm, and my father was an engineer. People said I should be a physicist. I didn't know what one was then. Somehow, I got into Harvard and said I was a physics major, and nothing ever caused me to not be one. I then wasn't sure what I wanted to do in grad school. I came down here to go to the University of Maryland. I was interested in what everything is made of and how everything works, which is basically particle physics. I got my degree and did my post doc there, I was then an assistant professor, and moved up here in 1976. I always liked it, did reasonably well, and nothing caused me to go off in another direction. It's fun to try to figure out how the earth was put together and how it works.

N-L: How does one balance physics with religion?

BB: When I was young, I went to chapel every morning, but when I decided I was going to a physicist, I had to keep physics



COURTESY OF WILL KIRK

When not in the classroom, Barnett works on the Large Hadron Collider in Geneva.

and religion separated. We know there's energy conservation, momentum conservation, and that sort of tells us that if there's a deity, he doesn't get involved with or violate energy conservation. We see the rules, but we don't know why they are that way, so there is a definite separation. Our experiments don't tell us if there is one god or 28.

N-L: Do you enjoy teaching physics?

BB: We get teaching assignments when we get hired. I like teaching — clearly a particle physicist could just teach at a laboratory where he didn't have students. I like it.

I have taught intro physics for more than 10 years. I enjoy it, I enjoy the students. I try to make my lectures entertaining and educational. We have lots of demonstrations during lectures. They get the students involved. If I need help, I ask for volunteers, I try to interact with [the students]. I try to make [the lectures] clear, organized, get the material across, but also entertaining so the students enjoy them.

N-L: I heard you made hot

dogs for one of your classes.

BB: We cooked hot dogs in one class. I was teaching them about electricity, and we were talking about resistors and currents. If you have a current running through an object, it gets hot. We put hot dogs on two little nails and put the electric current through them and they cooked.

We had all the condiments.

It seemed people were reluctant to take them at first, but I think they enjoyed them. We do a lot of things like that. Tomorrow in class, the students don't know this yet, but I have a surprise demonstration. We are studying springs and vibrations. We are going to hang a bowling ball from the ceiling in our auditorium and discuss if a pendulum's period changes with the mass.

We can look at this with the bowling ball, but then I will ask for a volunteer, and I will get a student to sit on the bowling ball and swing them across the lecture hall and they will find the period doesn't change, that the mass doesn't matter. Someone swinging across the auditorium gets your attention and the person on the bowling ball always has a good time.

FAS hosts panel of speakers to discuss Obama's first term in office

By **ERICH REIMER**
Staff Writer

Last Thursday, students and members of the Hopkins community headed to Maryland Hall Auditorium for the JHU Foreign Affairs Symposium's panel discussion titled "President Obama's First Year."

Featured at the event were Ivan Eland, senior fellow and director of the Center on Peace and Liberty at the Independent Institute, David Calleo, the dean acheson professor and director of the European Studies program at SAIS, and Farah Stockman, a reporter for *The Boston Globe's* Washington Bureau who reports on Department of State and other

foreign policy news.

The panel itself focused primarily on the changes promised and changes enacted by the Obama administration, along with its future, especially focusing on foreign policy.

"Obama's emphasis was on change with a capital C," said FAS moderator sophomore Natalie Stewart. "His foreign policy has become almost an afterthought. What we hope to do today is to bring foreign policy back into balance . . . We need to see what he is doing outside of our borders."

Stockman added that "changing the general tone of American foreign policy . . . talking to the world from a point of view of

respect, [and] restoring American leadership on big issues," were some of the major changes Obama promised.

"However, it seems to me there is a considerable portion of the electorate who is thoroughly disillusioned with American policy in general. Obama of course appealed enormously," Calleo said.

Some promises were not kept by the Obama administration, and the panel discussed this as well.

"You could argue if you start this game of what did he promise and what has he done and so on . . . we don't have any particular reason to feel grieved if you go look at his statements — it's more

what he implied throughout his whole campaign," Calleo said.

"Most of the changes are on the surface an image rather than policy. I think U.S. foreign policy has been pretty consistent after World War II. Bush was U.S. interventionism on steroids, but interventionism has existed since Truman," Eland said.

The panelists didn't place all the blame on Obama. "The whole mentality of being the world manager is really a dysfunctional way of looking at the world," Calleo said.

"Obama's in a very difficult position — none of the problems that are the focus of this tension are going to be resolved easily. Obama's policies are not very different from Bush II's." However, he cited one difference being "a return of civility . . . [and] respect for other cultures, other peoples."

The nature of the U.S.'s relations with Iran, Russia and Europe were also discussed.

"I think you have the usual problem with the Europeans — what do they mean, what are they saying — it's not always so clear. We are becoming an increasing irritant for Europe in this new century . . . [and] attempting to threaten them [Russia] militarily is not the way to build that kind of relationship with the Russians," Calleo said. In discussing Iran, Calleo added that "It's a country with a very long history . . . You don't approach it as if it's a banana republic that you can kick around."

The panelists also discussed at length how much actual power Obama wields to change things as a whole.

"We have the constitution we have and the president can only do so much," Calleo said. "Is the world changing? Has Obama developed a view of this new world which is adequate for these changes? The grace of Obama's speeches . . . the respect he shows for other countries . . . all that is

an enormous plus."

As a whole, the panelists described the current state of U.S. foreign policy as being relatively similar to the policy under Bush, although with key differences.

"He's taking risks . . . the promise of his presidency was that he possibly was going to be a world president . . . everybody in the world saw somebody in him and thought 'that's my guy,'" Stockman said.

Eland also felt that Obama's foreign policy was not living up to expectations.

"People like Obama . . . [but] America's policies aren't any more popular under Obama as they are under Bush. You can only put so much lipstick on a pig. I'm not saying his foreign policy is not better than Bush's — he does hinge on the sense that world public opinion does matter, he doesn't understand the mechanism by which that happens. I think he has to match the rhetoric with the actual policy or people will become disillusioned with him," he said.

The future of American foreign policy was also discussed. Both Eland and Calleo felt that current economic circumstances were hindering the policy's progress.

"Twenty years from now, will we be able to afford this empire, or is it even desirable that we afford this empire?" Eland asked.

Calleo saw U.S. foreign policy as detrimental to the economy in light of the budget crisis.

"We can't afford this [current foreign policy] . . . we have a trillion-dollar military budget . . . we will destroy ourselves," he said.

Stockman expressed concern that ironic borrowing on the part of the US would be Obama's undoing.

"We are currently borrowing money from China to protect Asia from China," he said. "I think Americans are going to judge Obama by what happens at home . . . look at Carter. Will he

be seen as a rock star or be seen as a wimp?"

Many Hopkins students found the event to be interesting and well-run.

"I thought it was a good range of speakers. It was pretty informational," junior Eric Du said.

However, some students felt the speakers were not politically balanced well enough.

"When you mix classic liberals with Libertarians, you're going to get too much agreement on foreign policy issues," senior Samuel Ball-Baru said.

"I think it would have been better with more opinions — perhaps someone with more neoconservative views or someone more willing to disagree with the trajectory of the group's opinions."

Stewart said she tried to coordinate a balance of opinion on the panel.

"I knew that each has a different perspective," she said. "The point of the panel was to figure how Obama's been perceived in the international community and what ramifications that has."

Responding to complaints that the panel was too one-sided, Stewart said that FAS had difficulty securing more polarizing speakers.

"We were aiming for an alternative viewpoint," she said. "I was hoping to get someone from the American Enterprise Institute. I recognize that is a fault."

In the end, even students who were disappointed by the lack of opposition on the panel felt that the event was successful overall.

"All in all, it was obviously a collection of brilliant policy makers and policy observers who had a lot of insights about Obama's foreign policy," Ball-Baru said.

Du agreed, saying he found the panel was in line with FAS's other events this semester.

"All the FAS events have an interesting tie to them — all of them are related in a subtle way," he said.



RAVI DESAI/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

From left: Calleo, Eland and Stockman debate various changes in American foreign policy under the Obama administration.

NEWS & FEATURES

Hopkins Mock Trial team emerges as a top regional competitor

By **RIAN DAWSON**
Staff Writer

Within the course of a year, the Hopkins mock trial team went from being one of the worst performing teams in the country to one of the best, despite less-than-ideal circumstances, including a lack of university support and funding.

"Last year at the end of regionals, we were doing pretty poorly," senior Helen Goldberg said. "We knew there was no way that we were going to move forward. We were out. So, for our last trial, our witnesses did it entirely in song. They sang all their testimony. They would try to put in song lyrics. The other team played along too."

After finishing 234 out of 243 teams last year, sophomore Alex Treiger said that the team is now, at least, in the top 40 nationally, after finishing fourth in one of the most competitive Mock Trial regional competitions.

"We're fourth in our region," Goldberg said. "It's basically the mid-Atlantic region, so, all the D.C. schools, Georgetown, GW, University of Maryland, which are traditionally top-ten mock trial schools. This is generally considered the most competitive regionals — if not the most, then one of the most. Now we've moved on to the first round of nationals." Part of the sudden increase in success is due to the leadership of president Julia Kandel-Krieger, who transferred to Hopkins her junior year from McAllister College in Minnesota. Another aspect contributing to their success has been more emphasis on organization. Since the organization is mostly autonomous, although they do have a nominal Hopkins faculty adviser, all paperwork is handled by Kandel-Krieger or one of the other members.

"I think we definitely tried to

change the tone of the team this year," Goldberg said. "We tried to make it more serious and have set meeting times and we tried to expand the program also. In the past, we had tryouts and only accepted maybe six people a year and this year we accepted more, maybe 25 or so. And then let people learn as they go along and figure out whether it was right for them," the team's vice president Ray Simon said. He also added that for the first time, the team has coaches. Both coaches, Becca Caldwell and Ben Salisbury, are area litigators and recent graduates from the University of Maryland School of Law, who agreed to aid the team.

"This year we are fortunate to have two University of Maryland Law School alums that have volunteered their time to help coach the team," Simon said. "Having two practicing attorneys is very helpful — they do this for a living and have a lot of helpful insight to share."

Caldwell said that over the past year, the team has made improvements in several different areas.

"The team has showed tremendous improvement over the year," she said. "During the first few months of practice, there was a disconnect between the individuals on the team. As the year went on, however, the students really came together and have learned to work as a true team. They have worked extremely hard to develop interesting and legally persuasive cases and to learn to make and defend objections during trial."

"They have also developed in terms of presenting themselves in a professional manner. The team has some more time left this season to develop and they continue to push themselves toward becoming the best that they can be. They will lose some impressive seniors this year, but the team has many underclass-

men who have done extremely well and who will continue to help build the team in future years."

Coming into the experience, most of the members are seasoned mock trial veterans. Kandel-Krieger herself went to nationals her sophomore year. Experience, in part, is what has helped the team gain such success over such a short period of time. Salisbury said that over the last year, both the new members and veterans improved their skills.

"It's interesting — some of the members of the team already had mock trial experience when we got there, some didn't," said Salisbury.

"The experienced members dramatically improved on the minutiae, such as handling evidence, objections and professionalism, but already had a solid foundation on their openings, closings, directs and crosses. On the other hand, the inexperienced members went from not knowing the basics to being able to present a full trial. This was where the improvement was most dramatic. I can remember explaining a direct examination and getting a ton of questions."

"Now, any member of the team can do a direct without any notes. That takes a lot of work. It really is amazing how hard these men and woman have worked and how good they are heading into this tournament."

In addition to support from coaches, Professor Mark Graber, the coach of the mock trial team at the University of Maryland, has also offered support in the form of offering scrimmages against the Maryland team and use of its facilities.

"Hopkins has gone from the weak sister of the Eastern mock trial region to a big player," he said. "No one wants to catch

their A-team in an early round. They did a nice number on one of the stronger Maryland teams, something that never happened in the past. They are balanced, smart and creative. I look forward to their challenges in the future."

To get to this point, the team has had to overcome some large obstacles, most notably funding for various competitions and membership into the American Mock Trial Association (AMTA). The budget they had to work with this year was a mere \$4,000, compared to the base of \$50,000 the University of Maryland has to work with, Goldberg said.

"This year, we had a surplus that accumulated over various years and we were allowed to keep that," Kandel-Krieger said. "That gave us about \$4,000, which is not a lot. Just to register the program is \$1,500. There are also all the conference registration fees."

As a result of the slim budget, whenever the team travels for fall invitationals, or to nationals in the next few months, they pay a majority of the costs out-of-pocket.

"The school doesn't really support us," Kandel-Krieger said. "We get very, very little support from the school. It has been an incredible challenging trying to get funding to go to AMTA."

For the future, Rachel Muscat and Alex Treiger pose with their trophies after competing at regionals for Mock Trial.



COURTESY OF JULIA KANDEL-KRIEGER

City News in Brief



COURTESY OF ZOOCUPON.COM
The Maryland Zoo will reopen March 13.

Maryland Zoo will postpone reopening due to blizzard damage

The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore, which had intended to reopen in spring of March 1, has had to postpone its reopening due to damage caused by last month's blizzards. The storms caused \$1.5 million in damage and due to the cost of repairs, employee overtime and lost revenue, the Zoo will lose even more.

The African Aviary exhibit was especially hard hit, and might not reopen until the fall. The Maryland Aviary was also damaged. The Zoo has had serious financial difficulties over the last several years and has been forced to close several exhibits. The Zoo will now open on March 13.

Cult members convicted of child abuse and second degree murder

On Tuesday, three alleged cult members were convicted of first-degree child abuse resulting in death and second-degree murder.

The three defendants, Toni Sloan, her daughter Trevia Wil-

liams and Marcus Cobbs, apparently starved a 16-year-old boy because he did not say "amen" before meals.

The boy's name was Javon Thompson. His body was discovered in 2008, 15 months after his death, in a green suitcase in a shed belonging to an elderly man from Pennsylvania.

The defendants had taken the body with them out of Maryland and briefly befriended the man. According to testimony, they hoped to resurrect Thompson through faith and prayer.

The cult they allegedly belong to is headed by Sloan, known as "Queen Antoinette." Sloan requires her children to read the Bible regularly, travel in pairs and wear clothes in white, tan or blue, colors she feels are more godly. Sloan's daughter, known sometimes as "Princess Trevia," convinced several Baltimore families to move in with her and Sloan and join the cult. One of the people who moved in, Ria Ramkissoon, was Thompson's mother.

Catholic Archdiocese to close 13 schools after this academic year

The Catholic Archdiocese of Baltimore announced on Wednesday it will close 13 schools at the end of the academic year. All the schools are in either Baltimore City or Baltimore County and include 12 K-8 schools and one high school, the Cardinal Gibbons School. In all, 2,152 students and 325 teachers, staff members and administrators will be affected by the decision. The Archdiocese, which wanted to consolidate its school system, will still have 51 schools. In the County, four of 27 school will be closed and in the City nine of 30 schools will be closed. The Archdiocese will work with local public schools to find jobs for employee who cannot find other jobs within their system, and their health and dental benefits will continue through August.

—City Briefs by Peter Sicher

SGA Notes: SGA attendance policy in question at next meeting

The Student Government Association (SGA) will consider undertaking disciplinary measures as per its attendance policy for several members who have three or more unexcused absences.

The SGA was unable to have a quorum on Tuesday due to the Freshman High Table event, so it is still unclear which members of SGA will be facing impeachment.

Next Tuesday's meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. in Mason Hall, their usual time and location.

The SGA is planning to address this absence issue and an impeachment hearing will be held for those with outstanding unexcused absences.

Daniels signs memorandum of understanding with Montgomery County

Last week, Hopkins President Ronald Daniels signed a memorandum of understanding with Montgomery County expressing Hopkins' commitment to advancing higher education, the bioscience industry and workforce development in the county.

It supports the County's recently unveiled "Biosciences Strategy" and the expansion of the Shady Grove Life Sciences Center.

Hopkins has been at the center of a growing debate with the Gaithersburg City Council, where the Montgomery County

satellite campus currently is located, since it unveiled its "Science City" plans for expansion.

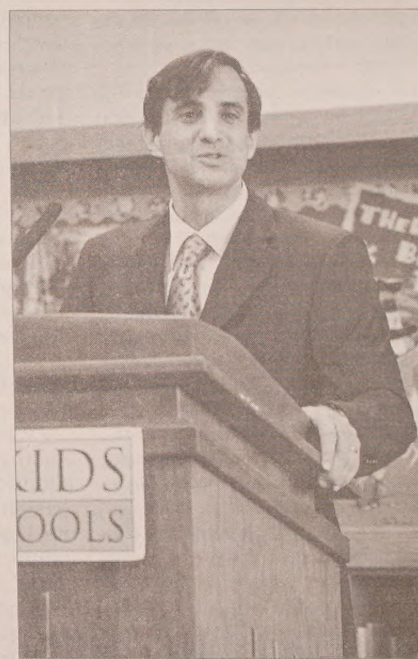
Plans for this development have been unveiled.

In attendance were Scott Zeger, vice provost for research, Nancy Floreen, president of the County Council and Mike Knapp, a council member.

They were joined by Steve Silverman, director of the Montgomery County Department of Economic Development.

Other members of both the public and private sectors also attended.

—Hopkins Briefs by Peter Sicher and Payal Patnaik



FILE PHOTO

Hopkins President Ronald Daniels signed an agreement with Montgomery County outlining several goals.

In Other College News

UC San Diego suspends female for hanging noose in library

University of California, San Diego, has suspended the unnamed female student who took responsibility for hanging a noose in their library. In reaction to the incident, 300 students had gathered for a protest rally where Chancellor Marye Ann Fox read a statement denouncing the act.

UC President Mark Yudof also condemned the act, calling it a "despicable expression of racial hatred" in a statement released on Friday. The noose hanging followed a series of racially charged incidents, including a "Compton Cookout" that ridiculed Black History Month, as well as a satirical campus group using a racial slur on a campus television show.

Oklahoma State getting financial boost from alumnus

Oklahoma State University is getting a financial boost through the recession, thanks to the generosity of an oil billionaire alumnus.

T. Boone Pickens, the founder of the hedge fund BP Capital Management, announced Friday that he would pledge \$100 million to his alma mater.

Pickens, who graduated from Oklahoma State in 1951, is now ranked as the 117th-richest person in the U.S. by *Forbes Magazine*.

This is not the first donation of this magnitude from the oil tycoon: In 2008, the University received \$63 million, in 2005 \$165 million, and in 2003 \$55 million.

U. Mississippi wants Star Wars commander as mascot

As a joke, four University of Mississippi students nominated Admiral Ackbar, the commander of the Rebel Alliance Fleet in *Star Wars*, as the university mascot.

The joke escalated into the "Ole Miss Rebel Alliance" movement, and now the Mon Calamari alien is supported by a number of students. He even has his own Web site, Facebook page and Twitter account.

In 2003 the University discontinued the use of its old mascot, Colonel Reb, considered by many to be representative of Southern plantation owners from the pre-Civil War era. Previous searches for a replacement were met with student apathy.

Brown announces tuition increase for 2011 as a result of recession

Brown University announced a tuition raise, increased enrollment, and job and budget cuts for fiscal year 2011 as a result of the recession.

Undergraduate tuition and room and board fees will increase by 4.5 percent to \$51,360, and the undergraduate population will increase by 30 to 5,895.

The University instated a salary freeze for officials as well as administrative job cuts last year in response to the economic downturn, trimming spending by \$35 million. However, Brown plans to increase spending on certain research projects, which will be funded by donations.

—College Briefs by Phyllis Zhu

Giving diversity at Hopkins a home

Location of new multicultural student center does not hinder programming

By ARVIND RAVICHANDRAN
For The News-Letter

The Multicultural Affairs Students Center (MASC) is located a block away from Ruby Tuesday, amidst the cluster of buildings near Homewood apartments. Hidden amidst the apartments lining North Charles St., the facility is neither marked as the MASC, nor does it have the most inviting façade.

Many students believe that it is an interim location and that it is going to be moved elsewhere by the spring of 2011, after the

which branches out into various rooms for several student groups.

Further into the facility, there is a small library and spacious lounge area, complete with a hi-fi system playing jazz music, sofas and a big television set.

The MASC boasts the cultural student organization offices, a cultural resource center/library, a medium-size conference room for about 25 people, a seminar room, a kitchenette and dining area.

It also has a student lounge for relaxing and studying, featuring

mentors.

According to Colon, MAP celebrates the relationship between freshmen and upperclassmen just as much as it celebrates multiculturalism.

"When people think of MAP, they think of diversity and ethnically diverse students, but being a mentor is also a lot of fun," Colon said.

SEED, the second lecture program at MASC, is a peer education program.

"Students are trained to facilitate programs involving teaching the students in dealing with diversity," Colon said.

Colon also mentioned that the OMA lost a valuable faculty member last semester when its Dean, Katrina Bell McDonald, resigned. McDonald, an Associate Professor of Sociology at Hopkins, had to leave OMA in order to replace the post of a senior faculty in the Sociology department who had passed away.

"She left us with some kind of exoskeleton here," Colon said. "She brought about a lot of structural change within the administration schematic when she was here with us."

"She developed two assistant directors, one for external affairs, and another for internal affairs, which is the position I currently hold."

Despite her resignation, McDonald remains committed to her vision of the OMA and the MASC.

"When I was there, I focused on getting the center to open, having strong hours for student activities and ensuring a lively facility," she said. "I also wanted to bring academic activities to mesh with the social stuff in the Center."

McDonald also said she believes the MASC will continue to bolster multiculturalism at the University.

"I am working on opening a dialogue around the issue of multiculturalism," she said. "This could be done at the MASC. It will be a strong driving force at Hopkins, and it can be something that unites us all."

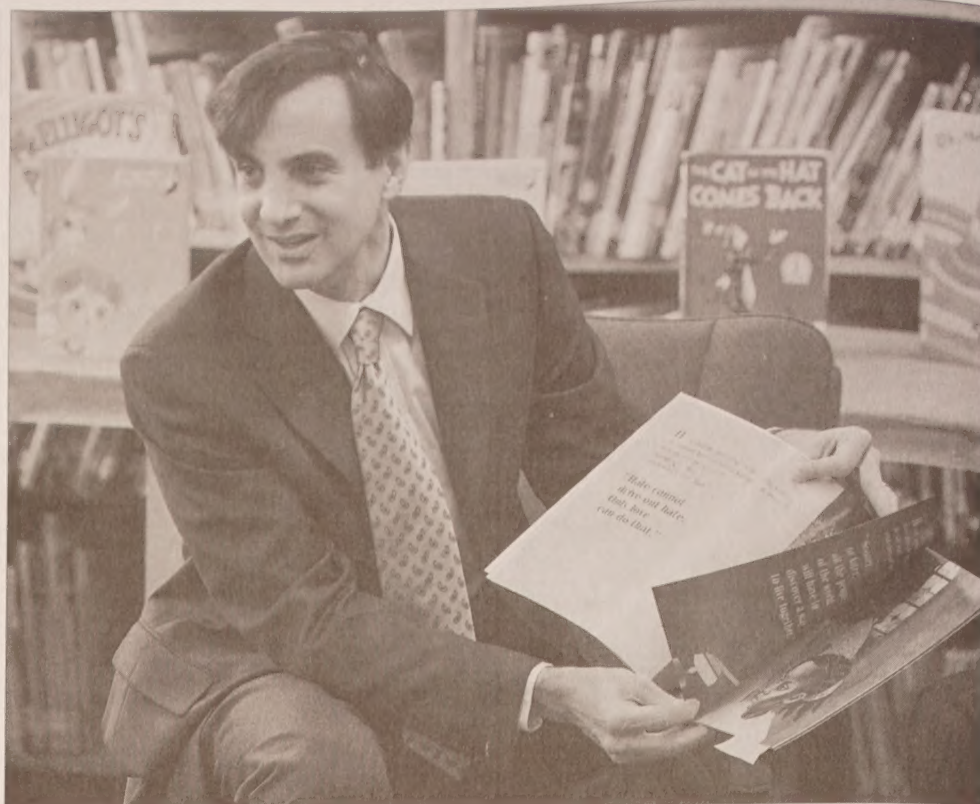
Though the MASC hosts a variety of programs and organizations that support the different cultures that comprise the Hopkins community, participation continues to be a serious letdown.

The MASC's distance from the campus impedes access for those who live on the other side of campus, and is not easily found by those who live nearby.

"I don't really like meetings to be there because it is really far away from campus, and it takes me about 15 minutes to walk from here," Bose said. "I used to the the escort van to go there."

Colon said he believed that the programs at MASC were accessible to everyone, despite the Center's inconvenient location.

"[The MASC] is open to all Hopkins students, and they can buzz in anytime they want to use the facility," he said. "I think students on campus should participate in the tons of programs we have here."



DANIEL LITWIN/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

On Tuesday, President Daniels read *Martin's Big Words* to children at the Barclay Elementary/Middle School library.

Hopkins partners with Baltimore City schools

JHU TAKES TIME, FROM A1
support, volunteers can assist schools with projects ranging from accounting and software management to helping create school gardens.

Last week, Baltimore introduced a new online system that pairs volunteer interest with school requests.

It matches "the great joy of volunteers — what they want to do — and the needs of our schools," said Michael Sarbanes, head of Partnerships, Communications and Community Engagement for the Baltimore Public School System. "Whatever your interest, whatever your passion, schools are looking for that."

Daniels and Baltimore City Public Schools CEO Andres Alonso announced the initiative after reading to students at the Barclay Elementary/Middle School library.

There was a mad dash as around forty pajama-clad first graders settled on the library's bean bag chairs and carpet squares.

They snuggled with stuffed animals brought from home or provided by the library staff, who wove expertly between the tiny jumbled arms and legs, separating the rowdy and quieting the excited.

Barclay Principal Jenny Heinbaugh got the attention. "Who knows what today is?" she asked.

"Tuesday!" yelled an eager student from the front of the class.

Heinbaugh laughed. "That's right. But what is special about today?"

It was Read Across America Day, a celebration of reading and the birthday of children's author Dr. Seuss.

Daniels and Alonso read *Martin's Big Words*, the story of Martin Luther King.

Some students shared their own big words, while others showed off for the press cameras, flashing big smiles and giving each other bunny ears.

As he turned the last page, Daniels told students he was "impressed that you were so

attentive and by all the books you guys read."

Alonso later thanked all members of the community for investing in Baltimore schools.

"There's no way to quantify what this means to us, to know that an institution such as Hopkins defines itself in some way by the work that we do," Alonso said.

"This is a very exciting moment for city schools. Test scores and enrollment are on the rise," Daniels said.

But Baltimore still faces challenges. The Maryland Congress is considering cutting education funding as a way to trim the state budget.

Catholic Archdiocese of Baltimore announced yesterday that it will close 13 local schools.

"The program is not a silver bullet. It's another initiative in addition to the many we have underway," Daniels said.

The University now has 58 partnerships and initiatives with city schools, including Baltimore Scholars, which provides full-tuition scholarships to local public school graduates accepted into Hopkins.

Baltimore Scholars, however, saw its lowest enrollment numbers among applicants for next year's freshman class.

Daniels said that administrators were closely monitoring the situation.

"We are being very attentive to downward trends, but right now we consider this within normal fluctuation," he said.

This type of partnership between colleges and local schools is very rare.

The idea was spearheaded by the Office of Human Resources at Hopkins.

"Community engagement is a part of productivity," said Michelle Carlstrom, senior director of

Office Work-life and Engagement at Hopkins. She was happy that the new volunteer system would allow the University to track the collective impact of its employees.

Daniels hoped that students would be inspired by seeing their professors volunteering.

"We encourage our faculty and staff to volunteer, just as we encourage our students to do the same thing," he said.

He added that while 1,200 Hopkins students volunteered through the Center for Social Concern, "we hope that number is a lot higher in the years to come."

Before the announcement, Baltimore Councilwoman Mary Pat Clarke read from *Amelia Bedelia*. She entertained an audience of about 30 second graders with animated reading.

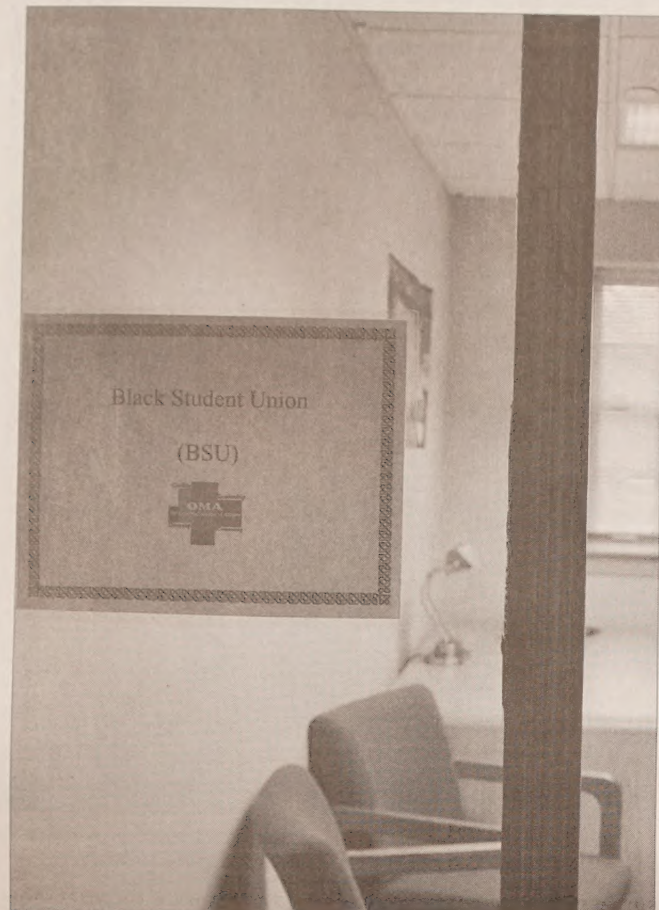
Clarke used negotiation skills — hard won from years in city politics — to calm a disagreement between two stuffed animals held by Neil Duke, chair of Baltimore's school board.

She finished the book to strong applause, then thanked students "for being so smart and such a good audience."

The kids then made their way downstairs, where they received free books in celebration of Read Across America Day.

Barclay is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary. Heinbaugh noted that the school's library was funded by the Hopkins Women's Club, which included support from volunteers, one of whom has been reading to children at the library for more than forty years.

The wife of former University President William Brody had volunteered at Barclay for 12 years. "No pressure, but let Mrs. Daniels know," Heinbaugh joked to Daniels.



COURTESY OF ANNA SALZMAN

The Black Student Union is one of the many organizations housed at the MASC.

grandiose "finalized" plans to re-open a multicultural center on 3505 North Charles St. beside the interfaith center in September 2008.

However, Joseph Colon, the Assistant Director for Internal Affairs with the Center, said that the current facility, located at 3100 North Charles St., is preferable to the location they were previously promised.

"We are actually very happy with this facility, although it was said to be the interim [facility]," he said. "[It's] far more expansive [than 3505 North Charles St.], and we can carry out more activities since we [have] more amenities."

He also said that financial problems hindered the move to the other facility.

"The money did not come to us because it was difficult to collect funds," he said. "Fund raising has been difficult. People aren't willing to shell out money for the project."

Despite its modest exterior, the MASC's interior is sleek and modern. Past the doors at the reception, there is a narrow, seemingly endless hallway,

sofas and a wide screen television.

"[The facilities] are quite excellent," freshman Sminu Bose said. "I was there for chapter meetings for the Global Medical Brigades, and I used the rooms, the computers, and the lounge facility sometimes."

The OMA utilizes the MASC facility to serve the underrepresented people of the Hopkins community.

Programs held at MASC are intended to foster expression of different cultural backgrounds, as well as to provide a forum for students to address issues related to diversity.

"We look at many issues, including issues which concern ethnicity, religion and even gender," Colon said. "Pretty much everybody is welcome to join in, come in and use the facility."

In addition to various multicultural events, two lecture programs are held at MASC.

MAP, the Mentorship Assistant Program, consists of about 165 multicultural freshmen and upperclassmen, the latter of whom serve as the freshmen's

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SECURITY ALERTS

COMMON ASSAULT

3003 N. Charles St.
Feb. 27 at 12:31 a.m.

After two sophomore undergraduates exited a 7-Eleven, an unknown female approached them, shouted at them "What did you say to my man?" and struck each of them once with her fist. No injuries. The suspect was last seen walking eastbound on E. 31st street. Baltimore Police responded, investigation continuing.

BURGLARY

200 Block of E. 33rd St.
Mar. 1, 8:00 p.m.

A Hopkins undergraduate reported that his laptop and cell phone charger were stolen during a burglary that happened between March 1 at 8 p.m. and March 2 at 1:28 p.m. The items were stolen from a desk in the 3rd floor bedroom. A window pane had been removed and the door had been unlocked for entry. Police responded, investigation continuing.

NEWS & FEATURES

University hosts first High Table

Freshman class hopes event will become new Hopkins tradition

HIGH TABLE, FROM A1

senior Nate Levin with providing some of the impetus for the event, but also pointed out that the freshman class council had a significant role in organizing it.

"Nate Levin was just back from a semester abroad at Oxford and was really enthused about the High Table dinners they had there," Furhman said. "At the same time, the freshman class council had been really interested in doing an event."

Furhman coordinated the logistics of the night with the freshman class council and members of the Aramark dining staff.

The event consisted of a semi-formal dinner, complete with hired waitstaff, with professors seated interspersed with students.

Those involved spoke of the desire to help foster a sense of community between the freshman class and the faculty.

"Tonight is about tradition and togetherness," Daniels said.

Burger agreed. "I'm glad to have the participation of so many faculty here tonight," she said in her opening remarks.

Larkin spoke of his pride for his class and his hope for its continued involvement in student life.

"I like to think we are part of something new at Hopkins," he said.

Freshman Julia Zhang spoke positively about the event.

"The highlight was definitely talking to the professors," she

said. "But it was also just a really nice change in setting, seeing everyone dressed up."

She also expressed some surprise at the fact that it was specifically for freshmen.

"I'm surprised they didn't do something like this for the graduating seniors," she said.

Burger wrote about the reasons that the event was held and why it was targeted specifically towards freshmen.

"We thought that the interaction between faculty and students was especially important to foster among our first-year students so that they will be encouraged to seek out faculty and engage them going forward in their career."

She said that the fact that all freshmen are on a meal plan helped keep the costs of the event down, which Furhman also mentioned.

"Costs for this event are very incidental since freshmen are on a meal plan anyway," he said. Most costs were related to renting linens for the table cloths and bringing in waiters.

Burger explained how those incidental costs will be covered.

"The difference was made up from the Parents' Fund . . . to which parents . . . [can] contribute, to provide support for activities that enrich the student experience outside the classroom."

Although there were some rumors about a fee for tickets, Furhman said that attendees were not charged, because Aramark catered the event.

Since only 440 students could attend the event, a buffet dinner called "A Taste of Italy" was provided to other freshmen in the Charles Commons Ballroom.

However, the freshmen who attended the buffet dinner did not feel left out of the High Table event.

"I did hear about the High Table event, but I didn't sign up for it because I didn't want to pay for tickets. It also kind of struck me as a little pretentious," freshman Eric Kanter said.

"I don't mind [eating in Charles Commons ballroom], I mean it's a nice change of scenery, and I think the food is really good here."

Other freshmen agreed that the event seemed a little too fancy for their schedule.

"I had a pretty busy day, and I didn't really want to have to dress up to go eat dinner. I'm glad that they had this alternative to that dinner because some people have exams and homework to do," freshman Heesung Lee said.

While others may have wanted to attend, some did acknowledge the fact that it would not have been feasible to have a dinner that would accommodate the entire freshman class.

"I was a little worried about the food at this [alternate] event, but it's actually been pretty good. I think it would have been too extensive of a project to make the High Table event for all 1,400 of us, there's just no space," freshman Lindsey Starks said.

Furhman explained that the limitation on attendance was based on the capacity of the FFC, given the way they had rearranged the tables for the night.

Burger and the freshmen council advertised by sending out mass emails to the freshman class and later sending out a paper invitation that resident advisors delivered by hand.

She emphasized that spending from the Parents' Fund is used for events for all classes, and that suggestions for new traditions from upperclassmen would be taken into consideration.



COURTESY OF SHOREFIRE.COM

State Radio has been slated to play at Spring Fair 2010. They will be joined by opening act Forever the Sickest Kids.

Funds affect Spring Fair concert

SPRING FAIR, FROM A1

In years past, Keskinyan (who is also a staff writer for *The News-Letter*) felt that organizers chose the act "based on

what was hot out at the time. However, this year, we really wanted the student body to vote so we could have a good grasp on what bands we should pursue."

Senders estimated that around 1,500 students participated in the first polling, where most students said they were most willing to see an alternative rock band.

Around 900 participated in the second polling, which narrowed down the preferred genre to indie and pop acts.

Main act State Radio is a Boston-based indie rock band that is heavily involved in political activism and is fronted by Chicoree Stokes, a former member of the band Dispatch.

The opening act, Forever the Sickest Kids, is a pop-punk act from Dallas, Texas. The winner of this week's Hopkins Battle of the Bands competition will be the opener for the two acts. State Radio manager Dalton Sim could not be reached for comment before press time.

Keskinyan felt that State Radio was the best choice in the alt-rock category. He described Forever the Sickest Kids as an energetic, up-and-coming band.

"They recently played at Warped Tour two years ago. They're about to blow up," Ke-

skinyan said. This year, tickets will be available for purchase online. According to concert co-chair Aaron Noparstak, student tickets will cost \$15 if purchased before a cutoff date.

"The date has not been decided yet, but it is likely that it will be around two weeks before the fair," he wrote in an e-mail to *The News-Letter*. After this point, ticket prices will increase to around \$20 to \$22, though the final price has not been set. Tickets for the general public will cost \$25.

"We have established a ticketing website that will allow students to sign in with their JHEM usernames in order to receive the discount. We are trying to set up a means to verify students at other schools so we can offer them discounts as well," Noparstak wrote.

With this change to online sales, Senders said he hopes getting tickets will be more convenient.

"It makes the hassle of students coming to Mattin not an issue this year. Instead, you can just enter your credit card information online," he said.

In order to boost ticket sales for this year, Senders said the committee is looking at various different fundraising options, including getting more community involvement and advertising at other local universities.

"Internally, we're going to flyer a lot," Senders said. "Were going to probably hold some events

going up to Spring Fair and have ticket giveaways." While the Hopkins students interviewed by *The News-Letter* were not very familiar with State Radio, some were looking forward to the performance. For freshman Caitlin Fuchs-Rosner, State Radio's reputation as a politically-conscious band holds some appeal.

"I feel like I might go for the experience, even though I'm a Republican," Fuchs-Rosner said. The political science major was intrigued. "I'll probably go more, now that I know they're political."

Sophomore Warren Elgort was looking forward to seeing which band from Hopkins would be playing at the concert. During his attendance at last year's concert, Elgort was disappointed by the outdoor set up.

"You can't hear everything that's going on," he said. "It wasn't conducive to having a good time. It was a real let down. I hope that whoever opens does a good job."

Freshman Nicky DePaul was puzzled by the committee's choice. He said he was hoping for a band that would be more interesting for listeners.

"It's not that I don't like State Radio. It's just that I really wished they had pushed the boundaries a little bit more," DePaul said.

"Last year, they had the Roots, and that's a really influential band at this point. State Radio caters to a pretty small audience, an East Coast college audience. I was really hoping they'd try to broaden people's musical understanding this year, and they didn't."

However, DePaul added, "I'm going to go. If it's good weather I'll be out there."



ELAINE YU/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

The High Table event on Tuesday night showcased a new Hopkins tradition for freshmen.

Recent assault raises questions about University's domestic violence incidents and policies

ASSAULT, FROM A1

However, the female student declined medical attention. Chian was released on bail the following day, and a trial date is scheduled for March 11 at the Baltimore City District Court.

University spokesperson Dennis O'Shea could not comment on any disciplinary actions Hopkins was taking.

"It is University policy not to comment on the state of disciplinary actions against individual students," he said.

However, Dean of Undergraduate Education Paula Burger, did state that the University can take disciplinary action even if there is no conviction in court.

"Incidents that violate our student conduct code especially in such matters as physical violence, can indeed be dealt with if there is independent evidence to establish culpability," she wrote in an e-mail to *The News-Letter*.

The incident raised questions about the frequency of partner abuse on campus and available

resources for emotionally and physically abused victims.

Laurence David, the Counseling Center's associate director for clinical services, said he has seen some cases of abusive relationships, both emotional and physical, though he suspects there are more that the Center does not see.

"We do see students that come in with partner or domestic abuse, but it has been such a low level of occurrence over the years that we're not really even track-

ing it," David said.

"But we have seen some cases, and . . . I wouldn't doubt that it happens more often, it's just not coming onto our radar."

Junior Steph Cogan, co-leader of Hopkins' Sexual Assault Response Unit (SARU), also believes that partner violence tends to be underreported. SARU operates a 24-hour student-run hotline that offers emotional support and suggests resources for student assault victims.

"For the three years that I've been here I haven't seen any specific cases of intimate partner non-sexual violence," Cogan said.

"Those things tend to be underreported or they don't even know that what's happening to them is wrong. However, most sexual assaults are committed by someone the victim knew. We are specialized in sexual assault, but we know of resources for victims of other intimate partner violence and could definitely help."

Hopkins Security has also seen very few cases of physical violence between students, according to Major George Kibler, head of field operations and the supervisor of security investigators.

"Going with past history I would say very few calls have been received and investigated

for domestic violence involving student on student and I've been here almost 15 years," Kibler said.

"The ones that do come to media attention hit the headlines because someone has been arrested and it goes to the court system, like the recent incident. That's not to say that you may have some issues that go directly to residential advisors for resolution informally."

Although the Counseling Center does not have a specific protocol or program for dealing with domestic abuse victims, there is information students can obtain through the Center, David explained.

"We have a lot of print resources online that students can access that would include information about abusive relationships," David said.

Hopkins Center for Health Education and Wellness (CHEW) also offers a link on their website to an abusive relationships information page.

The Web site page includes limited information on "Problem Relationships," "Conflict Resolution Guidelines," and identifying if you are in an emotionally or physically abusive relationship.

The Web site page was last updated in 1998 and was included as part of that year's Spring

Fair information Web site. Associate Director for CHEW Barbara Gwinn said they are in the process of updating their Web site's information but doesn't have any indication that partner violence is a major issue on campus.

"My take is that it is very underreported, and because it's an underreported issue it hasn't been something that we've aggressively been putting out there," Gwinn said.

"We do, however, aggressively address alcohol abuse, which is often closely related to violence of that nature, so in that way we're addressing those issues. We also focus on sexual health, healthy relationships, and communicating better with your partner, so in that way too we are addressing abusive relationships."

Still, Kibler insists that physical violence between students in relationships is uncommon on campus.

"There are very few incidents," Kibler said.

"With this most recent incident the young man had apparently assaulted his girlfriend and, though she wasn't seriously injured, it's Maryland law that if there's any fresh evidence of assault the person believed responsible should be arrested."

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NEWS & FEATURES

Hopkins celebrates Women's History Month

By YOUNG-HEE KIM
For *The News-Letter*

In conjunction with Hopkins' fortieth year of female enrollment, the University began its first-ever series of events celebrating Women's History Month this week.

The events are organized by the Women's History Month Committee, consisting of Hopkins undergraduate female students who mostly worked at the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs.

"Celebration of Women's History Month is long overdue at Hopkins," committee member Mwende Muindi said. "We created this series to celebrate how women have transcended boundaries and how women at Hopkins and in general have come to today through all the struggles."

"Any reminder of women's struggle is positive," said Chantal Dufreny, a senior cognitive science major and member of the committee. "The Women's History Month will push and continue to encourage women to establish themselves in the world."

On Tuesday, the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs hosted Sil Lai Abrams, a professional model, author and inspirational speaker. Abrams decided to speak at Hopkins because she felt it was important to acknowledge women's achievements and accomplishments.

"It is great to celebrate how much we have come and also be reminded of how much more work we must do," she said.

The two-hour event was attended by about 15 students, most of whom were women.

Abrams mingled with students, chatting on topics ranging from her experiences working with inmates at Bayview Prison for Women to her thoughts on Chris Brown.

As the formal talk began, Abrams introduced her past self as a "Drama Queen" and honestly revealed her history of being abandoned as a child, her adoption, her alcoholism and rape in teenage years, an abusive ex-boyfriend and divorce.

"I was addicted to drama. Drama queens let drama happen because they are disempowered," Abrams said. "They are victims of disempowerment. They blame others. They complain constantly. And they justify their drama."

She went on to describe the process through which she learned gradually to survive un-

avoidable drama and empower herself.

"Anything is possible. Just believe in yourself. Believe that you are a survivor, a contender and push yourself forward," Abrams said.

She also spoke about her past abusive relationships and emphasized how important it is to face and acknowledge the truth about relationships.

"Love does not hurt. Love is not abuse and abuse is not love. Abuse needs to be addressed. You must accept the signs that your relationship is not healthy. And you must get help. Nothing is going to change without help," she said.

As Hopkins deals with the recent domestic abuse case involving two undergraduate students, Abrams recommended that Hopkins consider a mandatory class for freshmen on dealing with abusive relationships.

"Abusive relationships are on the rise. Those aged 18 to 22 face the greatest risk. Students must know what the signs of abusive relationships are and where to get help," she said.

The month's events continue with speaker Bern Nadette Stanis, who played the role of Thelma Evans on *Good Times*.

The Committee will also organize a brunch on March 27, where Hopkins undergraduates will have a chance to engage with women from different professions.

"We are also going to have a Women's Appreciation Day on March 10," committee member Chelsea Gonzales said. "Girls can come to do their nails and hair and be pampered for free or at a discounted price."

Although student turnout at Abrams' discussion was small, those in attendance were satisfied with the experience.

"In a male-dominated society, we often forget women's contribution in history. It's really great that we are having this event for Women's History Month, and brining women's contribution into light," senior Nneka Eke said.

The only male student who came to the speaker event was senior Brandon Simms.

"More people should have come to the event, especially more guys. It was a great kick-off event. We should take any advantage offered to us to be less ignorant and gain awareness of our history and be educated," he said.

Wolman remembered as brilliant and dedicated

WOLMAN, FROM A1

Luna Leopold and John Miller, published, *Fluvial Processes in Geomorphology*, a textbook which has become an enduring standard. Throughout the 1970's and 1980's Reds continued to publish prolifically.

Reds' teaching and administrative commitments grew throughout the 1960's as he worked toward founding the Department of Geography and Environmental Engineering (DO-GEE) in 1970.

According to Edward Bouwer, Department Chair of DOGEE, Reds joined the faculty when there was only a geography and sanitary engineering department at Hopkins. After an edict from the University president declaring there were to be four departments, the school added two more departments: geology and oceanography.

"Later [those two] combined into Earth & Planetary Sciences and Geography and Sanitary Engineering combined to form Environmental Engineering," he said. "It was really Reds' vision that shaped [DOGEE] . . . This was his experiment in interdisciplinary education."

Reds' dedication to this type of teaching can be seen in his influential paper, "Interdisciplinary Education: A Continuing Experiment," which was published in *Science* magazine in 1977. But the ultimate indication of his commitment comes from students who studied with him throughout his career.

"His genius was to appreciate the power of being interdisciplinary," said Robert Barbera, PhD '78 and fellow in the Department of Economics. "He looked at the notion of academic disciplines as an impediment to seeing [problems] for what they really are."

The concept of interdisciplinary work aided Reds in other areas of his career as well. As his professional reputation grew, Reds sat on an increasingly large number of local and national committees which dealt with issues ranging from water safety to river bed erosion.

"He had the vision then to see that it was absolutely crucial to environmental problems to look at them from every dimension and then figure out how the solution will stick," Patricia Rosenfield, PhD '75, said.

"He inevitably became the chair of almost any committee he was on. You could have the dullest subject under the sun for a committee meeting and he would make it lively and use his understanding of human nature to get people to work together as



COURTESY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING
M. Gordon "Reds" Wolman (right) and master's student John Helwig (left) at DOGEE's annual Crab Feast during summer 2004.

a team. One discipline wasn't the solution to the problem . . . He made [everyone] come together."

Nicholas Jones, Dean of the Whiting School of Engineering, highlighted Reds' committee work as well.

"Look at the number of important committees he served on and the things they accomplished regionally and nationally . . . He had the ability to be able to take his work and translate it into what ultimately becomes policy that changes the world."

In spite of his other work, Reds seemed to focus all his time on teaching. Students were drawn to him most for his characteristic humor, intensity and kindness, but his simultaneous dedication to research made him an inspiration to undergraduate and graduate students alike.

"I came from England so my view of professors was very stilted, very dry and very formal," Thomas Dunne, PhD '69, said. "The idea that you could combine Reds' warmth and informality with an intensely intellectual approach was a real revelation and it . . . fired up my imagination about what it could mean to be a scientist and a teacher."

"He was very generous with his time with students. There was nothing else that mattered when a graduate student was in his office," Rosenfield said.

"He was an amazing teacher," senior Alex Baish, said. "He was a professor who could really inspire interest in the material. The first class I had with him was

Geomorphology. Four hours on a Friday afternoon for fieldtrips. It was amazing. I looked forward to them and so did the other students in the class. [It] was a very active involved process."

Reds' Friday afternoon class trips to local bodies of water and other geological formations were memorable for students who attended them.

"As an undergraduate I [went] on some fieldtrips. It is true that sometimes some of us were smoking cigars, picking up rocks and bricks and talking about how they got there. Reds was a big advocate of literally getting your feet wet," Barbera said.

Reds' devotion to his students was best exemplified by his ability to mentor. Students who studied under him recognized his unusual ability to focus on and retain both their personal and academic lives.

"He was honestly one of the sweetest professors I've ever met, and he wasn't even my professor," Karen Guskowski, a senior and administrative assistant for DOGEE, said. "He was well versed in my life story. He was really supportive and he didn't have to be, but he took the time to care."

"He treated everyone as if they were a personal friend," Bouwer said. "He always acted like he cared, but the thing was he really did care. Everyone was a colleague to him."

Even after they graduated, Reds continued to be an important part of his former students' lives.

"He was certainly my men-

tor in the early 1970s when I was getting a BA and then a PhD," Barbera said. "But he was also my mentor 12 months ago when I was writing a book. Somehow he remained a critically important person for me and I retained my status as his student."

Red played a very significant role in shaping the Hopkins that we experience today. His contributions to the University as a professor, department head and interim provost barely begin to illuminate his impact on the community. But all of these things strengthened DOGEE, one of Hopkins' most unique and groundbreaking departments, and touched hundreds of people.

"His work had far-reaching implications for the University and the world," Jones said. "Part of his understated genius was pulling that kind of operation together and leading it for so many years. I envision us embracing his model."

"I'm sure [the department] will be fine. He was just always there and always around, even this year for the department Crab Feast, and everyone knew him throughout the entire University. It'll be different without Professor Wolman around," Shultz said.

"It was a privilege for me [to know him] and I hear his voice all the time telling me to get the work done and be very clear about it," Rosenfield said.

Bouwer summed up Hopkins' loss simply: "We can't match his vision and eloquence. We don't all wear bowties."

Students, MADD testify at House of Rep. in favor of Eliminate Drunk Driving Act

HOUSE BILL, FROM A1

difference. She consulted the professor of the Issues in Injury and Violence Prevention course she was taking at the Bloomberg School of Public Health. The professor recommended that she consider an independent study on the prevention of drunk driving, which led her to what Draisin calls "the small-scale changes."

Wanting to tackle traffic and safety issues right away, Draisin consulted the Baltimore City Department of Transportation to discuss possible reconstructions of St. Paul and North Charles Street.

Dean of Student Life Susan Boswell involved herself in these efforts, which she called "tangible and necessary."

"We were really surprised at all the different things that Baltimore city officials suggested, they've been very open and very productive," Boswell said. "So many crossings are currently unsafe, there are so many places where traffic isn't stopped in all directions."

Discussions with the Department of Transportation have been ongoing and a follow-up meeting is scheduled for March 11, where Draisin hopes to discuss imminent traffic renovations.

But Draisin was not satisfied staying at a "small-scale" level. She began working with MADD in their attempts to push the Ignition Interlock proposal through the Maryland judicial system.

"I knew right away I wanted to testify [in favor of the Interlock]. If it wasn't going to be introduced, I wanted to push it through," Draisin said.

According to Jan Withers of MADD, Draisin added much-needed young blood to an ongoing issue.

Withers related an anecdote from a recent lobbying meeting, describing that when members of MADD split up into small groups to consult with members of the House, she made sure that Draisin was grouped with one particular opponent of the bill. Senator James Brochin (D-MD) had previously voted against the bill, but Withers remembered that he had shown great remorse after Frankl's death in October.

"I wanted to be sure Senator Brochin met Natalie, and he did listen to her, all the way until the end. They had this great exchange," Withers said. "Then, the very next day, the Senator said he had changed his mind – that he thought he had voted incorrectly and that he now supported the bill. It was amazing."

Bill 743 wasn't the only proposal heard at Wednesday's House meeting, but it generated the most discussion.

Under the bill's provisions, any individual with one conviction of (DUI) would have to use the Ignition Interlock for a period of no less than six months. A second conviction would mean one year with the Interlock, and a third conviction would mandate a sentence of three years.

Governor Martin O'Malley has said that if the bill passes through the House, he will automatically sign off on it. Regardless of the House's vote, the decision will not be released to the public until April 13.

In the current model, the driver would be required to breathe into the Interlock not only when attempting to start the engine, but several additional times thereafter.

A representative from the makers of Ignition Interlocks explained that the system would continue to "test" the driver intermittently: once after only five minutes, and then again every 20 to 40 minutes.

According to MADD, this system is necessary not only because of thousands convicted of drunk driving each year, but because DUI offenders drive under the influence an average of 87 times before they're actually caught.

"We can't stop the drunks from driving, but we sure can stop the cars from allowing the drunks to drive," Withers said.

Alternatives to the Ignition Interlock are currently being researched at Harvard, including less intrusive systems that would be able to detect the amount of alcohol in the driver's system simply by laser-scanning his or her finger.

"We have the technology for more advanced systems, but it might take 10 years to get them installed," Withers said.

According to Kramer, the current Interlock model is both necessary and up to par.

"Ignition Interlocks force the convict to modify his or her behavior, and that's what this bill is about – this bill is not about punishment, it's about the modification of human behavior," he said.

The system has already been

implemented in 10 states. One of these states, New Mexico, has seen a 65 percent decrease in alcohol-related recidivism. Proponents of the Maryland bill have used this as their example.

According to Withers, the support of those who have lost loved ones to drunk driving is crucial for the passage of this bill.

During Draisin's testimony she called on the Hopkins students to stand and be recognized.

"It is only by chance that I am here today and not Miriam," Draisin said, "it could have been any of us. Unfortunately we can't change the past, we can't bring back Miriam, but we can make something positive come of this."

Boswell said she wholeheart-

edly supported the students' efforts.

"This is something that the community is looking toward, to see what we can do to make sure it doesn't happen to anyone else," she said.

Boswell's department provided buses to shuttle students to and from Annapolis. She said that although she could not personally excuse any students from class for the day, she was willing to speak with professors and explain the situation if need be.

"If students wanted to go, I wanted to make it as easy as possible for that to happen," she said.

Originally 84 students had planned to attend the hearing but fewer than 20 ended up going.

CORRECTIONS

In the Feb. 25 edition of *The News-Letter*, an article on A1 of the News and Features section titled "Brzezinski talks global security at FAS event," misspelled Zbigniew Brzezinski's name.

In addition, an article on A2 of the News and Features section titled "Happy Birthday Johns Hopkins! University turns 134", misspelled the name of Hopkins impersonator Jonathan Mest.

In the same article, the name of event volunteer Victor Ekanem was also misspelled.

The News-Letter regrets these errors.

—Additional Reporting by
Rebecca Fishbein

NEWS & FEATURES

Plan to criminalize miscarriages is cruel to women

You do not have to be a feminist to agree that, in terms of sex and reproduction, women get the fuzzy end of the lollipop.

First we have to endure painful and unattractive monthly visits just to be able to reproduce. Then after conception comes a painful and unattractive labor period to bring offspring into the world. If that were not already enough, menopause means one more painful and unattractive sentence.

Basically, anyway you look at it, we're getting screwed.

Secondly, the main areas that authority figures, in the form of government or religious zealots, address to deal with the shock and horror of sex generally end up affecting the woman more than the man.

While demoralizing birth control and prohibiting abortion, the men behind the dicks never seem to take any blame for their (rather significant) contribution.

And now, the state of Utah has another present for us, the unfortunate females: possible jail time for miscarriage.

House Bill 12, presented by Rep. Carl Wimmer (R-Herriman), seeks to criminalize miscarriages and condemn women who seek to or end up having an "illegal abortion."

The bill was formed as a response to a 17-year-old pregnant girl from Vernal, Utah, who allegedly paid someone to beat her up in an attempt to induce a miscarriage.

Now, wherever you may stand on normal abortion issues, you need to realize that this law would include prosecuting a pregnant woman for, say, getting in a car accident for which she was not at fault, and as a result losing her child.

This law would apply for the entire pregnancy period, which means if you had one too many drinks in your first trimester before you knew you were pregnant, and unintentionally lost the baby, you could be charged with homicide.

I am, of course, not promoting the practice of drinking while pregnant, nor am I condoning abortion unless completely necessary from a physical or emotional perspective.

But I cannot help being out-

or abusive husbands and boyfriends, and use up more time, more resources and more money that our country, much less the state of Utah itself, simply does not have.

I also find it ironic that this is happening in Utah, a state that was recently debating passing a law to eliminate the 12th grade, or at least make

it optional, in order to cut back on spending. If this new law passes, all that money they're saving is just going to go to

(I choose to ignore Sarah Palin and her trophy children, both with regards to this issue and in general).

You can argue that abortion is not a women's rights issue all you want, but when it comes down to this legislature, the point really does not seem to be keeping abortions out of clinics — it's throwing women into jail.

I can only imagine the horror a woman would have to go through if, once having miscarried, most likely by accident and already traumatized by the experience, she also had to be subjected to criminal questioning on the grounds of possible feticide afterward.

This is not just about the rights of women. This is also about the government creeping its way into every nook and cranny of our private lives, step by step, in every which way it can.

Hell, I would not be surprised if one day, they pass a law decreeing that missionary position is the only permissible way to make love.

It is, after all, the best position for conception, which as we all know is the only reason anyone should ever have sex. End sarcasm.

Having a miscarriage is a traumatizing, life-altering experience to go through. For

there to be a possibility that these women in Utah should have to serve time for an indisputably common occurrence — even among adults who are willing and eager to become parents — is just another example of how backward our supposedly "free" society can be, especially with regards to sexual and reproductive matters.

The best way to keep this legislature from passing is by spreading the word about it, by word of mouth, Facebook, Twitter or, hey, maybe even your college newspaper — anything to keep the government snoops from sticking their noses further into our beds than they already do.



Vivi Machi
Dirty Business



ANNE FABER/GRAPHICS EDITOR

raged that this law seeks to blame the mother for miscarrying when about 10 to 15 percent of all pregnancies in the U.S.

will probably end in miscarriage (according to *americanpregnancy.org*).

This law is not going to force women to keep unwanted children. It's going to criminalize miscarriages. It's going to open

up a whole can of worms for false accusations from jealous

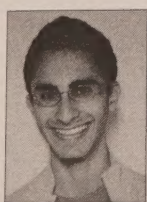
While demoralizing birth control and prohibiting abortion, the men behind the dicks never seem to take any blame for their contribution.

Mad Men meets the modern man: The "Quintessential" experience

You don't need a time machine to recapture old-fashioned class, just a ride to Baltimore's finest barbershop

My column is called Hop Couture; I inherited the name from my predecessor because I really enjoyed what he wrote about. A lot of the things I write about involve clothing in one way or another, but I also try to relate it to other things men should be interested in.

Things like good food, grooming, drinking and other manly things that manly men



Siavash Raigani
Hop Couture

I want to write about some experiences that most men should take the time to have at some point in their life.

A men's night out shouldn't always consist of Keystone and sloppy women, although at our age that seems to be the dominant trend. To have a truly gratifying experience with other men, you have to go to the root of what life for men used to be a half-century ago.

I'm talking about the days when getting a haircut and a shave was a social experience and when wearing a suit to work or class was the norm.

Anyone who has seen the very popular show *Mad Men* will understand. Those were the days when men used to hang out and bond over simple things that they enjoyed and held in common.

So how can we have these same experiences that seem so far off to us? It's not hard, and it's not out of reach either. You just need to look in the right spots.

There is an old-style barbershop in the financial district of Baltimore, called Quintessential Gentleman, that has held on to a piece of the classic man's lifestyle.

Though the establishment is only five years old, it might as well have been there for 50 years. I had heard of this place through a friend

and a group of us had decided to visit and see what it was all about.

The idea was simple: let your facial hair grow out in all directions for a while, then dress up nicely, take some classic alcohol and head down to QG for shave, a couple drinks and a good manly time.

The shop itself is very beautiful, full of wood and brass railings, chairs, etc. At the entrance of the store is a bar where loyal customers can leave a bottle of their choice drink to be kept between visits.

The barbershop caters to the old, relaxed lifestyle: You come in for your appointment, have a drink, relax, get your hair cut, your moustache trimmed, relax some more and so on.

The five or so of us had made our appointments beforehand (as you're supposed to do) and arrived in a timely fashion.

I had let my facial hair grow out a bit and was ready to experience my first straight-blade shave.

It's things like these that men can bond over, and feel a connection to a past that they will probably never experience in their future.

The shave itself was an interesting experience — a straight-razor does things that a regular blade can't. The shop offers two types of shaves aside from a variety of other small services.

The regular straight-razor shave is different from the "Quintessential" shave in that the latter consists of both a top-down stroke as well as a bottom-up shave, whereas the regular shave consists only of a top-down stroke.

The added bottom-up stroke provides a close shave to get your skin to be as smooth as can be.

The barbershop also offers a variety of hair services after a basic cut. In case you are easily tempted, they also offer hot towel facials, skin exfoliations and massages if you feel like indulging.

Of course, you can also ask for a simple shoe shine while



SMARTWOMENONLINE.COM

Only at Quintessential Gentleman can you get a stiff drink with your fashionable haircut.

you get a shave or cut (I did). In short, QG brings back all those long-lost traditions and services that men once had time for in their lives.

After the shave came the best part: relaxation. The two-floor shop has a pool table for customers while they wait to be served.

While some of the others were still occupied, the rest went upstairs, poured a few whiskeys (ice was provided) and sat back, drank our drinks and shot some pool.

The experience was rewarding because the atmosphere was just right. We didn't take a cab downtown to get drunk and do stupid things, we took the time to put on a dress shirt and pants,



ELAINE YU/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Using an elliptical machine is a great way to cross-train and prevent injuries.

Get the gain without the pain: How to avoid running injuries

The first injury: It's one of the worst feelings an athlete can have, realizing a disc has slipped, an ankle has fractured or a joint has dislocated.

Our bodies have rebelled against us — what we have worked so hard to care for refuses to care for us back. We learn that we are not infallible, and we realize the vitality of whatever sport we play or exercise we do.

I experienced my first running injury over the summer. Months of

Rebecca Fishbein
Guest Column

walking around New York in flip-flops and flimsy ballet flats wreaked havoc on my lower joints, and a sudden increase in mileage didn't help my overworked knees and ankles.

In early July, I started noticing a sharp twinge in my right knee in the beginning of my run, though it tended to dissipate towards the middle. By the end of the month, the pain was so extreme I could hardly walk, let alone run.

My father, a lifelong marathoner who has had every injury from shin splints to pinched nerve endings, told me to lay off my knees for a few days and see how I felt at the end of the week.

The weekend came and I still couldn't run. The pain stretched into the next week, and the next, and the next. I was miserable. I didn't know when I'd be able to run again, and my body was aching for an endorphin release.

I had trouble sleeping, I wasn't hungry for meals, and I couldn't handle a normal routine without a run. I realized that I was an addict and I was going through a terrible withdrawal.

My old mantra, "I run, there-

fore I am," was no longer applicable. I felt that I had lost something central to my life and personality.

I did some Internet research, and it seemed I had a condition called patellofemoral pain syndrome, or "Runner's Knee," which is one of the most common overuse injuries among young runners, especially females.

I tossed my old flip-flops and stuck to running shoes 24/7 for a little while (there are some lovely photos of me in sundresses and Asics). I went to a sports orthope-

dist and learned several exercises I could do to strengthen my quadriceps, the muscles that protect the knee.

After a hellish near-month of abstinence, I eased back into running, starting with a mile or two and working back up to my regular mileage by the end of the summer.

No matter how minor a running injury is, it can be painful, debilitating and more than just a nuisance for the dedicated runner. Running is a very high-impact exercise — you feel good after a run because endorphins are released to mask the pain your body should be feeling.

This doesn't mean you should trade in your running shoes for a yoga mat right now, but there are plenty of ways you can prevent an injury and protect your body.

First, listen to your body. If your muscles have been aching for a few days, take a few days off and stretch instead. Leave at least 24 hours between each workout so your body has time to recover.

Ice your joints right after a run for about 10 to 15 minutes. The ice will bring down any swelling around your knees or ankles.

If you don't have time or access to ice, run cold water over your joints right before you shower — if you live off-campus, do this while waiting for the water to heat up.

If you have been feeling any pain in your knees, take an anti-inflammatory such as ibuprofen (like Advil) immediately after a run. DO NOT take Advil before you run, as this will impede your ability to feel pain. Your body is in pain because it wants you to pay attention to it. If you don't, you could cause a more serious injury.

While some say you should put heat on injured joints before bed, others avoid heat at all costs. Check with a doctor or orthopedist before you use a heating pad.

Cross-train! Finding an alternative form of exercise, like biking or swimming, will actually strengthen your overall musculature and protect your joints from further damage.

Check your footwear! Running shoes run down pretty quickly depending on your mileage, and improper or overused shoes will contribute to joint damage. If you are feeling some pain in your joints, avoid flats or heels. Stick to rubber-soled shoes with good support for long walks.

Most importantly, stretch after every run. Stretching after a run is essential to preventing injuries, though there's controversy over whether or not you should stretch before you exercise. Walk when you finish your run to ease your joints back into a softer groove. Stretch your hamstrings, quadriceps, calves and hip muscles. Your body will thank you.

All-in-all, most running injuries will be minor and eventually everyone should be able to head back into their regular routine after a while. Few injuries are truly devastating, although they do happen, which is why prevention and cross-training are so important. Run safe!

THE JOHNS HOPKINS

NEWS-LETTER

PUBLISHED SINCE 1896 BY THE STUDENTS OF THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

EDITORIALS

The Value of Tradition

In an effort to improve school spirit and bring a greater sense of community to Hopkins, many campus organizations have recently attempted to establish new traditions on campus. On Tuesday night, inspired by an Oxford University tradition, Hopkins hosted its first “High Table,” a formal freshmen dinner with professors at the Fresh Food Café (FFC) — extra students were relegated to the Charles Commons Ballroom. At the same time that new traditions are being created, however, old traditions are being stomped on. Spring Fair is an event that “has been a Johns Hopkins and Baltimore tradition for over 30 years,” according to a letter by the Arts & Crafts co-chairs to potential vendors. This year, organizers have failed to book an exciting and popular band for the weekend concert, an event that is usually a Spring Fair highlight. They are bringing State Radio and Forever The Sickest Kids. Heard of them? Neither have we. While *The News-Letter* agrees that building a greater sense of community and improving school spirit are both important causes, this could best be done by re-allocating funding to support old traditions rather than making attempts at establishing new ones.

The High Table may be a spectacular event under the beautiful halls and high ceilings of Oxford’s Great Hall — the model for the dining hall in Harry Potter. However, the event loses its allure under the low-ceilings of the FFC. Cafeteria food was catered by Ar-

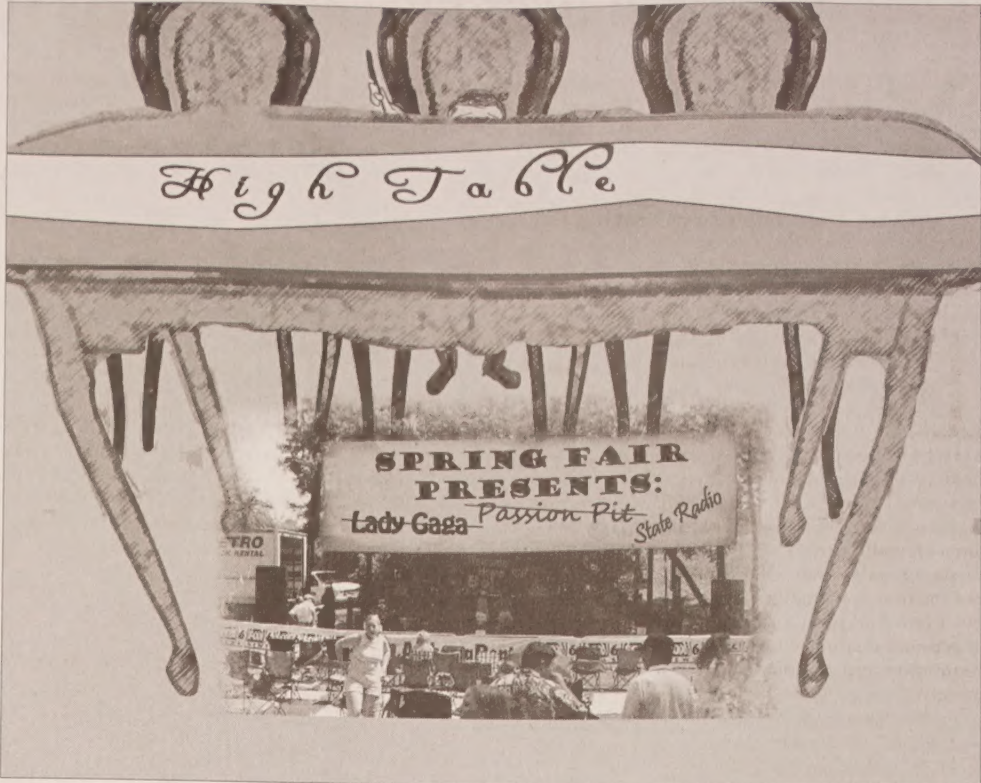
mark and funding was provided by the Parents’ Fund, an organization meant to provide support for the enrichment of student life. Another notable attempt at establishing a new tradition on campus is the somewhat forced Lighting of the Quad ceremony, where students watch Christmas lights illuminate the Keyser Quad outside the MSE library. Or the new tradition created by the administration in which seniors light freshmen candles in an attempt to welcome them to campus.

Hopkins has yet to realize that the idea of a new tradition is itself an oxymoron. Traditions are not created by a traditions committee (yes, Hopkins has a traditions committee). They are born organically, usually with an interesting back story. This is what gives them their attraction.

Spring Fair’s concert and the commencement speech, on the other hand, are meaningful and long established traditions that the entire student body looks forward to with anticipation. This year, neither the concert nor the commencement speech will be an original and exciting event. The bands performing at Spring Fair are no-names and commencement speaker, New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, appears to have been chosen because of financial constraints as mentioned in last week’s editorial.

Funding should be re-allocated to give such organizations a better chance at keeping current traditions alive and restoring pride to the University.

Anne Faber



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Speech at Hopkins requires restraint, respect

I was disappointed by the editorial carried in the February 25 edition of *The News-Letter* (“Free Speech for All”). It presented a naïve and perhaps dangerous rationale for free speech that seems to have been shaping *The News-Letter*’s editorship in recent weeks. Free speech is a valuable liberty in any community, but it implores and relies on collective

responsibility and tolerance. It does not excuse hate speech or threats of intimidation, for example (as Maryland House Bill 677, Section D.2 also outlines). Your claim that it “is a preposterous argument” that free speech “might encourage disruptive behavior in classroom and other settings” concerned me most. Consider the deplorable acts and words of racial intimidation at UCSD this week, for example — acts the culprits and their allies have attempted to justify by freedom of speech. We are members of a diverse intellectual community and our university’s mission

can only be realized by a shared ethical agreement to balance our individual rights of self-expression with mutual respect for our differences and an appreciation for our community’s shared well being.

The News-Letter is foundational in this endeavor; it needs to work beyond editorializing polemical shouting justified as ‘opinion’ and towards critical, grounded and respectful dialogue.

James Williams
Graduate Student,
Johns Hopkins University

LETTERS POLICY

The Johns Hopkins News-Letter welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should not exceed 250 words. Letters must be delivered to the Gatehouse by Tuesday at 7 p.m. or emailed to chiefs@jhnu.edu for inclusion in that Thursday’s issue. All letters received become property of *The News-Letter* and can not be returned. *The News-Letter* reserves the right to edit for space, grammar and clarity. Letters must include the name, address and telephone number of the author. Only one author’s name may be included. Groups, teams and other organizations may not submit letters, only individuals. *The News-Letter* reserves the right to limit the number of letters printed.

Addressing Domestic Violence

Domestic violence is shockingly under-addressed at Hopkins. Although it is a national problem of tremendous significance, there is currently no specific policy regarding domestic violence at the University. It is time that serious attention be paid to this issue and a comprehensive policy instated.

Any policy concerning domestic violence must begin with tracking. According to a statement by Laurence David, the associate director for clinical service at the Counseling Center, the University is “not really even tracking” occurrences of domestic violence. It is impossible to develop comprehensive programs specifically targeting the reduction of domestic violence without any information documenting the frequency and nature of such issues on campus. The Counseling Center must make a concentrated effort to start a domestic violence tracking system.

Additionally, there is no known mandate requiring resident advisors in campus housing to report domestic violence to administration officials. George Kibler, the supervisor of security investigators, said that domestic tensions are often informally resolved by resident advisors. This is unacceptable. There should be dialogue between resident advisors and the administration concerning domestic violence, especially since most resident advisors are peers who lack the authority to resolve major conflicts in the

ways administrators and Hopkins counseling can. The University should establish a formal protocol for facilitating this communication.

Furthermore, it is unclear as to how students can report off-campus instances of domestic violence. Developing a clear mechanism to deal with off-campus abuse is also very important. In doing so, the University will be able to comprehensively address domestic violence at Hopkins.

Any complaint of violence necessitates a quick response. Security and the Counseling Center should develop a joint task force dedicated to tracking violence. Cases of abuse are traumatic and victims must have an outlet for communication.

Part of the problem with the current lack of an open policy is that people just do not know where to turn when they experience violence. The University should prioritize finding an efficient way to make students aware of the revised domestic violence policy. Raising awareness on the issue through e-mails, Orientation workshops and educational activities will help people know who to contact.

Though domestic violence has been a small, but continuous occurrence at Hopkins, the University has been greatly unresponsive in dealing with it. There can be no time wasted in starting to solve this problem.

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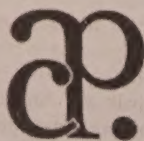
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Bipartisan Insincerity Crippling Health Care Reform

By GEORGE PETROCHEILOS

It seems as though we are unable to have a sincere dialogue on health care. President Obama's recent speech on this issue once again showed that his eloquence might have been persuasive enough to lead to Congress' approval of his health care "reforms." Unfortunately, these proposals cannot effectively deal with the problems of health care.

As a result, when Obama says "I am not the first President to tackle this issue but I am determined to be the last," he is actually dealing with the issue of his reputation and the place his name will have in American history. This reveals why Americans are not completely sincere about health care reform.

From a political point of view, it is a simple issue. Consensus of the reforms is on a downward slope. According to a poll carried out by Kaiser Family Foundation, in April, 43 percent of those asked believed that the Obama reforms on the health care system would improve living conditions and only 14 percent believed that there would be a decrease, whereas in August these numbers were 36 percent and 31 percent respectively. Obama ought to convince more citizens of the benefits of his reforms in order to have their support.

Generally speaking, Americans have three expectations of their health care system. Firstly they want, as a matter of principle, for everyone to have access to medical care. Secondly, they believe that people should have their choices of doctors and treatments. Thirdly, the people want a reduction in costs.

In response to these expectations, Obama told the people what they wanted to hear. In other words, that the status quo of those satisfied with things as they are would not suffer any changes, that from now on all Americans would enjoy health care and that those unable to afford it would enjoy government funding to cover or augment the costs.

Concerning the cost of this project, there is no reason for concern. Obama claims that "by reducing excess expenditure and increasing efficiency in the existing Social Security system — known as Medicaid and Medicare — we will cover the cost of the new plan." He confirmed that he would not put his signature to anything that would "increase

the national deficit even by 10 cents, not now and not in the future."

If you believe Obama, then you will most certainly support his proposals.

We cannot believe all the President says, however. If he were sincere — if we were all sincere — we would admit that not all parameters of the health care proposal can co-exist.

If we want health care for all as well as freedom of choice, then the cost will rise, as there is nothing to curtail it. This we can see in the existing system, which have sky-rocketed government health care allocations from five percent of the GDP in 1960, to 16 percent in 2007. This, of course, is due in part to the application of new technologies in medicine and to the increase in family incomes.

Studies carried out on the various proposals for the reform of the health care system have proven that long term goals far exceed long term funding abilities.

The main bill proposed, known as H.R. 3200, is expected to lead to an increase of the national deficit by \$1 trillion in its second decade of operation (2020-2030). Government allocation to health care will reach 28 percent of the GDP by 2029.

So, how can Obama claim that costs will be curtailed? Congress has always placed safety valves on expenditure, but history has shown that, when push comes to shove, these safety valves are loosened or completely done away with.

If we desire health care for all and also freedom of choice, then we must accept increase in government expenditures. It thus is highly unlikely that there will not be an increase in taxation and spending.

To compound the problem of the plan's shortcomings, the right is intimidating voters by warping facts about the proposals.

Obama's opposition contends that the said reforms will cause the elderly to bear the brunt of the re-allocation of funding. In this display of insincerity what we see is the mentality of the American voter.

When we are called upon to make choices, we engage in partisan mudslinging and inaccuracies.

George Petrocheilos is a freshman civil engineering major from Athens, Greece.



ANNE FABER/GRAPHICS EDITOR

Irresponsible Ethics Reform

From drug crime to a flailing educational system, Baltimore has been transparently inept at dealing with the slew of problems that face the city. A massive overhaul in many of the city's policies is desperately needed in order to truly make the city functional. As a result, it is difficult to say what might be the most important issue that the city faces. However, after the former mayor Sheila Dixon resigned on corruption charges, ethics reform appears to have become a top priority of the city government.

The current mayor, Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, ran on the platform of honesty and transparency. Naturally, she promised to change the selection pro-

cess for the ethics committee — a body that is critical for mayoral accountability. In the past, the mayor selected all five members of the committee.

According to *The Baltimore Sun*, Rawlings-Blake will cede two of the seats on the ethics committee to the comptroller and the City Council president, while holding onto three selections for herself.

In retaining the power to select a majority of the seats on the ethics committee, Rawlings-Blake demonstrated shocking irresponsibility. It is clear that she has no intention on truly creating a mechanism of accountability. Indeed, Rawlings-Blake has created a pseudo-solution to the problem of corruption.

If she truly intends to stay true to her campaign promises, she must not be allowed to select her own political cronies to comprise a majority of the ethics committee.

Politicians frequently make useless policies for public gain. Unfortunately, Rawlings-Blake is not a good enough politician to do

even this effectively. It is difficult to believe that she truly thinks that people are ignorant enough to accept that the mayor has really increased accountability with her selection change. The people are very well aware that a board selected primarily by the mayor will not be effective in holding the mayor accountable for her actions. In light of this, Rawlings-Blake has clearly made a poor political move.

Additionally, the mayor has made a move that highlights political irresponsibility. She showed that she intends to only put on the face of an honest leader without taking any action to follow through on it. More alarmingly still, the mayor has demonstrated that she does not care about promoting transparency — all qualities of an awful politician.

She is the type of leader that lies to her populace for political gain — the type of two-faced politician that corrupts her office. This is reprehensible on a moral level. Politicians must protect the will of the people. When a leader is newly elected, she is elected on her promises, and Rawlings-Blake has broken hers.

What is worse is that corruption is a tremendous problem in Baltimore. Here is a city that is economically inefficient, rife with crime and incapable of providing high quality public services.

Amid all of these problems, one would think that the newly-elected mayor would emphasize efficiency in all that she does. She decided to only semi-reform the ethics committee. Now she must revisit the issue and complete the reform, or else accountability may never be reached.

She also lost a tremendous amount of political capital in trying to maneuver her way out of the committee's reform. This will cause all of her other policies come under stricter scrutiny. As a result, her reforms will take longer to implement. Her term will now be saddled with greater inefficiency — something that should be held against her in her reelection campaign.

People in political office should never be left unaccountable. When leaders have unchecked power, abuse follows. Baltimore witnessed this first hand with Sheila Dixon. Ultimately, the citizens will be the people who are forced to pay the price of corrupt politicians.

As an honest human being, Rawlings-Blake should relinquish the ability to select a majority of the ethics committee. As a responsible politician she should apologize to the city of Baltimore for her haphazard attempt at accountability. Most importantly, as a democratically-elected public servant, Rawlings-Blake must learn to accept that no politician is entitled to avoid transparency.

Omar Qureshi is a sophomore international studies and economics major from Monett, Mo. He is the Opinions Editor of The News-Letter.

Afghanistan War Essential for Western Security

In spite of criticism, America should stay committed to Afghanistan

By AARON JONES

Afghanistan has been known as the destroyer of empires. Alexander the Great, the Soviet Union and Great Britain have all entered the troubled region only to be doomed to suffer humiliating defeats. One need not even look to examples of failed imperial incursions in the country, as counter-insurgency warfare in itself has acted as an empire-killer.

With the Netherlands moving its 2,000 soldiers out in response to the collapse of their Coalition government and the Canadians likely to be next to withdraw, it would seem that we are on a track to failure in this NATO-supported war in Afghanistan.

If the U.S. is forced to take an even larger role in this conflict, public opinion on this war is bound to fall even further and spending on this war will continue to increase for the U.S. in a time when public wariness about the debt is growing. This, plus the fact that we are currently in a time where domestic problems such as double-digit unemployment and health-care are at the forefront of U.S. political consciousness, would lead many to question if the war in Afghanistan is worth it.

The answer to this question is yes.

The war in Afghanistan has been known as both the "good war" and the "forgotten war" of this decade. The failures of the Bush administration to put the emphasis on the war from the beginning, and his waging of another war in 2003 are

the primary reasons for it being forgotten, but as Iraq winds down, and NATO and Afghan forces engage in one of the bloodiest offensives in the country since the battles for the Korengal valley in 2008, the war is gaining much more attention.

taneously attempting to modernize the country. This reconstruction mission is vital to building a strong Afghanistan that is capable of defending itself from the returning Taliban and Al-Qaeda, and is able to maintain its own infra-

these times of domestic turmoil, we must remember that during Bush's surge in Iraq, we saw results come in the form of stability and security.

If we were able to stomach Bush's strategy, surely Obama should be given some time for his surge to work — especially since his surge is in the one country that actually had Al-Qaeda hiding there before we invaded, and since the Taliban have the potential to destabilize Pakistan, which as a nuclear state lacks the level of sophistication that the U.S. has when securing its nukes.

The war in Afghanistan and the simultaneous reconstruction effort make up the most difficult foreign policy action that the U.S. has ever attempted. Success would bring stability to the region, deny terrorists a safe haven and allow Pakistan to reconstruct itself with the assurance that the U.S.

and NATO will not leave them alone to face the Taliban by themselves. To leave prematurely could lead to catastrophe in the region with the potential collapse of nuclear Pakistan and the resurgence of a terrorist-harboring Afghanistan, which would erase the nine years of progress made at this point. It is not in our interests to let that happen.

structure and operate as a functioning democracy within Central Asia.

The West is not the only player in this war that would benefit security-wise from a stable Afghanistan, as Pakistan will then be able to make a more proactive stance against the Taliban forces within its own country, without the fear that the Taliban would merely melt into neighboring Afghanistan, only to return to harass the Pakistani people and their government.

While the American people are right to be skeptical of the war, especially in



ANNE FABER/GRAPHICS EDITOR

The Johns Hopkins News-Letter



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Applications are currently being taken for the Louis Azrael Fellowship in Communications, three one-year \$5000 scholarships for students interested in pursuing careers in news-related media (print or internet journalism, radio, television, or other kinds of news communication).

The Fellowship honors the memory of Louis Azrael (1904-1981), a nationally known columnist for the former Baltimore News American newspaper. Azrael was a Baltimore newsman for nearly sixty years and was distinguished for his work during World War II, especially for his account of the D-Day invasion.

The Fellowship is given through the Writing Seminars Department and will be judged by Professor Wayne Biddle.

Applicants must be Johns Hopkins sophomores or juniors. They should submit a representative collection of relevant work, preferably material that has been published or broadcasted, along with a brief biography and statement about current and future interests in news media. Applications are due by 3PM on Wednesday, March 31, 2010, at the Writing Seminars office in suite 702 of Dell House.

For more information, please contact
Professor Biddle at **wbiddle@jhu.edu**

THE B SECTION

The Johns Hopkins
News-Letter

Your Weekend • Arts & Entertainment • Cartoons, Etc. • Science & Technology • Sports

MARCH 4, 2010

A game of Shuffleboard?



Autism

Scientists
retract
disputable
findings that
linked
childhood
vaccines to
autism, B7.



ANNE FABER/GRAPHICS EDITOR

INSIDE B SECTION

YOUR WEEKEND

Aquire a sophisticated palate at Hillel's kosher wine tasting, B2.

ARTS

Check out the review of *Justice League: Crisis on Two Earths*, and see how this crime-fighting team cleans up the streets, B4.



ANNE FABER/GRAPHICS EDITOR

YOUR WEEKEND MARCH 4 - 7

The joys of a Hopkins Weekend

I find that lately I, like many earthlings, find it extraordinarily difficult to concentrate on things in which I'm not interested.

If I'm interested in learning about something, I'll remember it forever. Human Sexuality was a great example of this (even though it had a 9 a.m. section).

Unfortunately, not every subject can be as titillating. At one point or another, most Hopkins students are forced to take classes not only outside of their discipline, but outside of their broader range of interests. Some call them distribution requirements — I call them hell.

It was the last day of add-drop period when I realized I needed to take at least one N credit this semester.

Then came the snow: Another week passed and I had yet to attend this class. When I at last made it to the lecture, I was astounded at how difficult it was to concentrate.

Naturally I had not used the snow break to catch up on the reading but instead to hone my forensic-anthropology-observer skills, namely by watching *Bones*. Thus I had a heap of reading and missed classes . . . and to top it off, the professor decided not to delay the exam.

I then attempted to open the book. I read through an entire chapter one night and felt extremely productive. Unfortunately, afterward I didn't remember anything.

I know my eyes swept over every word on that page: This was not a case of "OH GOD I'VE

BEEN READING THE SAME SENTENCE FOR AN HOUR."

This was a straight up out-of-body experience. Or I was possibly meditating — if only I could get credit for that in my Tibetan Buddhist Culture class.

So, as you can see, by this point I had started on the road to minor productivity, at least until my professor brings up the EXAM. All ears perk up and we sit there, awaiting his advice.

"I give hard tests," he said.

"You're responsible for everything I went over in class, everything in the reading, their

cross-section and some things I didn't touch on in lecture. You shouldn't expect to get more than an 80 percent on this test."

I'd be really interested to hear what my positive psychology teacher has to say about something like this.

Here are the lessons to learn from this:

1) Don't leave distribution requirements until second semester junior year.

2) Take time when making your schedule and figure out what classes you need.

3) If you do miss the first two weeks and have a mysterious snow week, use that time to do the reading.

4) If you still haven't done the reading, begin investigating the possibility of taking the class S/U. That's one period the registrar gives you a decent chunk of time to mess around with.

And, this vicious cycle causes what we love to hate: "The Hopkins Weekend."



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The walls of the Glass Pavilion might just shatter tonight — it's Battle of the Bands at Hopkins.

Come enjoy pizza from PJ's, beer and other beverages while getting a glimpse of the Hopkins music scene.

The event showcases many different genres, so expect variety.

The performing acts are Sybil, The Mouthful of Eagan, The Bohdangles, Leroy's Mama, Time Columns, The Nat-

ural Frequency, Gregory, Minerva and the Phi Psi Family Band.

There will be covers to sing along with, as well as original material.

Bands will be evaluated by a panel of judges including representatives from Spring Fair, The HOP, WJHU and according to the audience's response.

Make some noise for your favorite Hopkins musicians, because the first place prize is huge.

Hillel's Kosher Wine Tasting

Purim has passed, but the feasting continues.

This Thursday Hopkins Hillel goes vinoteca with a kosher wine night.

It's time to kick the box and graduate to more sophisticated libation. With wine prices expected to drop in 2010, think of Thursday as a novice buyer's guide.

Neil Feldman, a trained sommelier, will guide the tasting, highlighting the special qualities of the wines.

Stick around after his presentation for another glass of your favorite and some socializing.

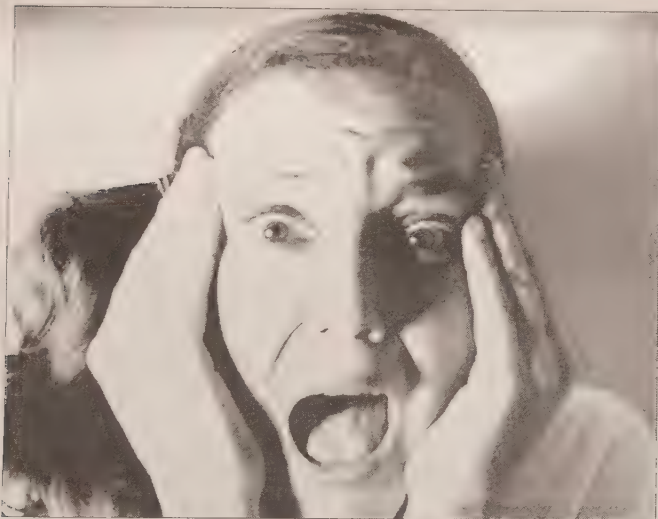
A Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay, Bordeaux, Chianti and more will be available for tasting, along with the prerequisite cheese, cracker and chocolate spread.

Space is limited to the first 30 students to RSVP at <https://hopkinshillel.wufoo.com> and pay a non-refundable \$5 reservation fee.

The event starts at 9 p.m. and will be on the third floor in the multipurpose room.

21+ please.

— Stephanie Mezyk



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This could be you if you don't plan accordingly. Wait no, this will be you. Give up already.



COURTESY OF WWWRADARREDUX.COM

On March 4 at 6 p.m., 16 speakers have 20 slides and five minutes each to talk about something important to them and how it possibly relates to Baltimore. Don't quote me on the last part, as some of the topics would require extreme mental gymnastics to show a connection to Baltimore. Essentially, it's a TED talk for Baltimore.

Oh, I guess I should explain TED. TED, meaning Technology, Entertainment, Design, is an organization run by Chris Anderson. TED finds speakers from around the world to discuss everything from the meaning of genius, to the migratory patterns of birds in India, to the eating habits of Americans.

Anyway, Ignite Baltimore is TED, but smaller, less exclusive and more accessible. With each micro speech lasting only five minutes and there only being 16 speeches, you'll get bang for your buck. The micro speeches range from Heather Holland's "Why I Don't Want Children (or, How My Uterus Became a Shriveled Walnut)" to Brian Sacawa's "Hybridity: Remaking the (New) Musical Horizon in Baltimore."

Plus, it's taking place at the the Walters Art Museum, which for you JHU-bubble bums is not that far from the Peabody shuttle stop. If you still need convincing, there is also booze and food. Five bucks, booze and food? Done.

— Michael Ferrante



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HOP

Hope for Haiti: Haitian Relief Party

Friday, 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Glass Pavilion

The Black Student Union hosts a night of festivities in order to raise money for Haitian Relief. A minimum \$10 donation is required to attend, but up to \$5 worth of sanitary items donations can be deducted.

Third Annual So You Think You've Got Talent?

Friday, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Glass Pavilion

Proceeds from this events — which include performances by Adoremus, JHU Ballet Company, Chinese Lion Dance Troupe, Eclectics, JHU Breakdance, Gospel Choir, Jaywalk, JOSH, Ketzev, Ladybirds, VIVAZ, Temp d'Afrique, S.L.A.M. — go to a designated charity.

HOP Movie: The Road

Friday, 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Mudd Hall Auditorium

Viggo Mortensen, Kodi Smit-McPhee and Charlize Theron star in this adaptation of Cormac McCarthy's Pulitzer-winning novel.

A Night with the Stars Oscar Party

Sunday, 8 p.m.
Nolan's

Free food and prizes.

Global Perspectives Coffeehouse — Haiti

Saturday, 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.
AMR I MPR

Enjoy fair trade coffee, organic tea, a laid-back atmosphere, and conversations and readings from the open mic. All food and drink items are offered free of charge but a donation is encouraged.

Throat Culture 24-Hour Bonanza

Saturday, 9 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Arellano Theater

Throat Culture locks themselves up for 24 hours again in order to write sketches based off of ideas posted to this event's Facebook wall. The show is presented afterwards.



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Hopkins Hold 'Em

Saturday, 9 p.m. to 12 a.m.
Nolan's

First place wins a \$125 gift card to his or her place of choice, followed by \$50 and \$25 gift card prizes for second and third place, respectively.

STAGE

Bus Stop

Thursday, Friday, Saturday, 8 p.m.
Sunday, 2 p.m.

Olney Theatre Center for the Arts

A small-town diner is the scene of a dramatic series of events when a blizzard strands a busload of unusual passengers on its doorstep. The ensuing events are a tale of love gone right and wrong.

Mrs. Kemble's Tempest

Thursday, Friday, Saturday, 8 p.m.
Sunday, 5 p.m.

Baltimore Shakespeare Festival

The story of Fanny Kemble, one of the most famous actresses of the 19th-century American stage. This performance weaves the tale of The Tempest with episodes from her own tempestuous life.

The Light in the Piazza

Daily
Arena Stage

Based on the Tony Award-winning musical about a romance in Italy and a family secret that may change everything.

Let There Be Love

Daily
Centerstage

A drama about what it is and what it means to be an immigrant. An old man gets his life shaken up by a young Polish woman.

ART

Ulysses Marshall: Storytales

Thursday, Friday, Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sunday, noon to 5 p.m.

Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture
Maryland's own Ulysses Marshall breathes life into his grandmother's stories through his artwork.

Open Studio Tour

Saturday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Bromo Seltzer Arts Tower

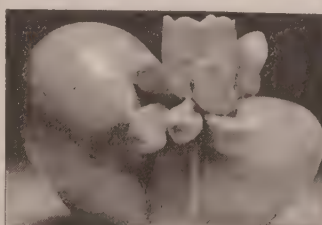
Here's your chance to see the insides of the Bromo Seltzer Arts Tower and pay a visit to its many artists and artworks.

Roots and Wings

Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Baltimore Clayworks

Featuring over 30 years of outstanding ceramic art, with an opening reception to be held this Saturday.

Former and current member artists of the Clayworks will be exhibited.



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MUSIC

Mysterioso

Friday, Saturday, 8 p.m.
Sunday, 3 p.m.

Meyerhoff Symphony Hall

An evening of performance by the BSO Superpops and illusionist Joseph Gabriel.

Split Lip Rayfield

Friday, 8 p.m.
8x10

A bluegrass band with plenty of attitude, their songs include "More Cocaine Please" and "Hobo Love Song." Baltimore's Manly Deeds opens.

NOVO Instrumental Music Festival

Thursday, Friday, 9:30 p.m.
Saturday, 10 p.m.

The Windup Space

A showcase of non-vocal music acts from around Baltimore and the east coast. Yeveto, Jason Urlick, Notendo and more perform.

That 1 Guy

Thursday, 8 p.m.
8x10

Mike Silverman is "That 1 Guy," fabricating musical instruments from steel pipes, cowboy boots and saws. Influenced by Frank Zappa.

Christopher Kovalchick

Friday, 5:45 p.m.
Homewood Museum

This 2006 Peabody grad performs to kick off the 2010 Peabody at Homewood series.

MISC

City Paper's Cosmic Cocktail Party

Thursday, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.
American Visionary Art Museum

A ticket in the door nets visitors treats from RA Sushi, Berger's cookies and performances by DJ Rob Cee and DJ Who. Tickets can be purchased from Citypaper or at missiontix.com.

Oscar Night

Sunday 5:30 p.m.
Scottish Rite Masonic Center

This evening's event is officially sanctioned by the Motion Picture Academy of Art and Sciences. Highlights include a cocktail reception, dinner, live entertainment and silent auction.

Sheryl WuDunn

Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
UB Student Center

Prize-winning journalist and wife of Nicholas Kristof gives the keynote speech of the OB Feminist Legal Theory Conference at the University of Baltimore.

Japanese Cloisonne Enamels

Museum Hours
Walters Art Museum

These marvelous works of beauty and elegance, enameled metal boxes, urns, vases and trays from the collection of Stephen Fisher, make their debut at the Walters Museum.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Love songs fall short in *The Last Five Years*

By **KELSEY DONAHUE**
Staff Writer

The Last Five Years, written and composed by Jason Robert Brown and directed by Michael Alfieri, tells a classic boy-meets-girl story — with a twist. The story of the lovers' five years together is entirely told in song. The catch? One starts the tale at the beginning, while the other moves backward through time.

Jamie, played by freshman Harrison Johnson, begins his narrative in the usual chronological order. However, his girlfriend and eventual wife Cathy (senior Cara Selick) starts her side of the tale in a much darker place — the bitter end of a rocky five-year relationship.

Both sing their way — or try to — through all the many stages of love, from the honeymoon phase to the first real fight. Their relationship culminates in adultery and painful divorce. As the show proceeds, Jamie moves closer and closer to the couple's looming disintegration and Cathy gradually returns to the joyful rush of early love.

Admittedly, Johnson and Selick had no easy task on their hands, carrying a show with such mature themes entirely on their own vocal shoulders, but both were up to the job. At times, though, audience members may have wished they sat this one out.

Selick's voice was by far the superior source of song, at times sweet and light as she ruminated on past times with Jamie. While she occasionally went flat or sharp, her voice was for the most part consistent. When she tried to become strong and brassy as she berated Jamie for his shortcomings, though, her voice strayed toward frantic and out-of-key pitches.

Johnson, on the other hand, clearly has very little singing experience. He seemed to do better with quieter songs, but when the play got emotional, his singing began to sound more like yelling and it seemed as if his mic was turned up all the way.

To say he struggled with the

higher notes of his songs is being far too generous. While it was certainly not ideal, his voice worked for the up-and-down, immature character he played and contrasted well with Selick.

To be fair, Johnson did bring believability to a character that, as the play progressed, became much less sympathetic to the audience. Jamie is a writer coming into fame and success at the exact moment the woman he loves is failing to get her own career off the ground. Naturally, conflict ensues.

Jealousy and resentment grow on both sides, culminating in a fantastically-played fight done entirely in song, where both Selick and Johnson managed to bring a mature, heavy sense of exhaustion and exasperation worthy of any actual marriage quarrel.

The play has plenty of sweet moments, too. After a long and very entertaining scene in which Jamie uses a story he has been working on — about a Jewish tailor traveling back in time by sewing stitches in a magic dress — to present Cathy with an actual dress, he sings to her, "Have I mentioned today how lucky I am to be in love with you?"

In another scene, as Cathy laments her separation from Jamie while he travels on a book tour, she sings, "Look at me — look at him — son of a bitch, I guess I did something right!" These bright moments only make it more powerful — and depressing — as their relationship begins to crumble.



ELAINE YU/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
Cara Selick and Harrison Johnson lent their voices and acting talents to the musical about love found and lost.

Certainly the darkest point of the show takes place when the lights go up to reveal Jamie asleep on a couch — and a conspicuous pair of feminine knees rising from the blanket next to him. As one can guess, these knees don't belong to Cathy.

While the audience is not necessarily surprised, they find themselves invested enough in the characters to be upset by Jamie's fall from grace — especially as he began to sing himself a justification in classic "she drove me to it" fashion.

Using opposing timelines as the storytelling device actually worked for *The Last Five Years*, and was only at times slightly disorienting.

Selick and Johnson had a believable chemistry that made both the happy and sad moments play well.

The music, led by sophomore musical director and pianist Yang Bai, included bass by Matt Panico, guitar by Chris Schilling and violin by Sarah Tan (who is also a News and Features editor for *The News-Letter*). Bai did a phenomenal job contributing to the general atmosphere of the play, whether it

was sad, jolly or foreboding.

One major problem was the audio system, which was mishandled to the extent that it caused the music and the actors' voices to work against each other.

The play's ending was its most poignant moment. As Jamie stands on one side of the stage, singing his final goodbye to the girl he once loved, Cathy stands on the other, still catching her breath, basking in the giddy glow of a good first date.

"All I could do was love you, God, I loved you so," Jamie sings, and it feels as if he means it. Cathy, meanwhile, is waiting breathlessly by the phone. What makes it so tragic is that the audience knows the call will come — but it won't change a thing.

Poet Muldoon speaks at Turnbull series

By **PHYLLIS ZHU**
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, poet Paul Muldoon spoke on poetry, the Irish influence and fish at the Percy Turnbull Poetry Lecture.

Hosted by the Writing Seminars Department, the 114th Turnbull Lecture opened with Department Chair Dave Smith, who introduced Muldoon as a poet, critic and member of his own rock band.

Muldoon, who was born in N. Ireland, is a professor at Princeton University and is also the Poetry Editor for the New Yorker.

He has written 53 works on poetry, literary criticism and children's stories and has won the Pulitzer Prize for his 2003 collection *Moy Sand and Gravel*.

Muldoon is associated with the Belfast Group of poets, which includes Michael Longley, Seamus Heaney, Derek Mahon and Frank Hornsby, among others.

His poetry is considered to be postmodern and is known for its difficult and casual style.

Muldoon read from a handout that contained what he called a selection of "fishy poems" that touched on the "widespread confusion in Irish society between predator and prey . . . fisherman

and fish." In particular, he said, they focused on sexual predation in Irish society and history, alluding to the scandals of the Irish Catholic Church, and called it a process of "casting about, deep-sea fishing, trawling and dredging."

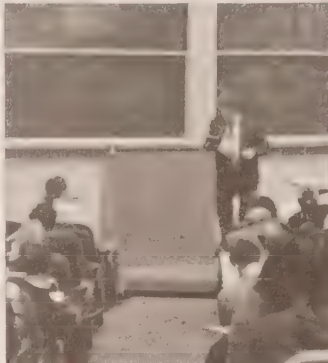
He began by reading the poem "Sunday Morning" by Irish poet Louis Macneice.

The poem, he explained, plays with the idea of time and space, and while not exclusively about fish, "Sunday Morning" is an example of the influence of Irish history in poetry.

The second poem, "The Net" by William Robert Rodgers, made reference to writer James Joyce's notoriously difficult novel, *Finnegan's Wake*, in its playing with points of connection with words.

The Gaelic nature poem, upon first glance, appears to be concerned with fishing, though Muldoon pointed out that the description of "fishing" is rife with sexual innuendos.

The "net" can be seen as women's stockings, the poet's surname "Rodger" is a British term for having intercourse and the greatest fish of all, Moby Dick, was, of course, a sperm whale. "What a mess," SEE MULDOON, PAGE B5



DANIEL LITWIN/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Paul Muldoon gave the annual Turnbull Lecture.

The Last Station muses love, loss and Tolstoy

By **ERICA HELLERSTEIN**
Staff Writer

Leo Tolstoy, the vastly influential author of one of the world's most tragically beloved love stories, lived a poetically jagged love story of his own.

The tumultuous trials and errors of Tolstoy's family, love and professional life drive the plot of the dramatic film *The Last Station*, produced by Michael Hoffman and adapted from Jay Parini's 1990 novel.

Michael Hoffman casts Helen Mirren and Christopher Plummer as Sofya and Leo Tolstoy, a savvy choice, as both actors portray their characters with convincing eloquence. It is this acting that drives much of the film's success.

The screenplay begins in 1910 with the virginal, wide-eyed Valentin Bulgakov, played by *Atonement's* James McAvoy. He is a Tolstoyan intellectual of the highest degree: earnest and romantically dead-set in his ideals.

He has just landed a highly sought after job at Tolstoy's commune as Tolstoy's personal secretary. He is hired by the head of the Tolstoyan movement (which is founded upon spreading love) who is also the creator of the

commune, Vladimir Chertkov.

Chertkov, played by Paul Giamatti, is the movie's (grossly waxy) mustached-masked villain and an unlikeable and narrow-minded character. He is deeply committed to the Tolstoyan movement and relishes in proclaiming Tolstoy a prophet, tirelessly preaching the

mitment to Tolstoy's movement. Chertkov seems hauntingly corrupt — less interested in spreading the ideals of the movement and more interested in spreading the power of the movement itself.

Upon moving to the commune, we soon find that Bulakov may have bit off more borsch than he could chew. Tolstoy's unstable household is ridden with distrust, tension and envy. His wife of many years, Sofya, is adamant that Tolstoy leave his writings for his family's profit.

Contemplating this possibility ignites a conflict of Tolstoyan interests of epic proportions. Imparting his works to his family would be spitting in the face of his very ideology — leaving nothing to the people and everything to his immediate family. However, in dedicating his writing to the people and not his family, he would be betraying his cherished wife — his muse — who pines for financial comfort for her family.

Chertkov recognizes this tension and attempts to solve the dilemma by hiring Bulgakov to go along with him to the commune in order to spy on

SEE STATION, PAGE B4



COURTESY OF WWW.ALLMOVIEPHOTO.COM
James McAvoy and Helen Mirren bond as unlikely friends in *The Last Station*.

movement's core socialist-liberal tenets.

However, his unwavering dedication to fulfilling the movement's vision hinders his relationships with others (particularly Sofya and Bulgakov) and from the movie's beginning, he is particularly disagreeable.

In spite of his obsessive com-

It's a verifiable fact that attending a metal show will rid one of all stress — and if it's not a verifiable fact, it should be now. Watching Anubis Unbound tear up the stage along with Cryptic Warning Saturday night at Ram's Head Live was the perfect escape from C-Level.

After all, what's better than blowing off some steam by moshing up a storm or head banging all the tension out of your neck?

For \$11, attendees got to witness five solid Baltimore metal bands, two of which — The Condemned and Cryptic Warning — were also releasing albums that night.

While I arrived too late to watch the opener, Crimson Orchid, and was only really familiar with Anubis Unbound's music in the first place, what I managed to catch was a dark, menacing and mostly enjoyable show.

Second on the bill and first to be witnessed was Apophis, a four-piece band that was compelling enough when they managed to keep the beat.

Drummer Scott had a tough time keeping up with what the group's music called for, and there were several moments where time-signature transitions seemed awkward and a tad sloppy.

However, bassist Tony was the saving grace of the band — his impressive six-string slapping kept the band in time when Scott fell behind, and singer B.J. and guitarist Justin played their parts to perfection. Apophis had a small, but devoted, fanbase that kept momentum up and showed

that the group has enough clout to gain themselves a steady following.

Next up was The Condemned, a four-piece band from Deale, Md., who was promoting its new release. The quartet had just played a show with Shadows Fall in February at Sonar which, if you know anything about metal, should strike you as fairly impressive.



COURTESY OF CHLOE PELLETEI
Justin Severn of Anubis Underground rocks out at Rams Head Live on Saturday.

Unfortunately, Saturday night, they didn't seem to be on top of their game, and overall their set was pretty flat and unimaginative.

Still, their thundering double-bass lines and growling vocals supplied by singer Steve Sansbury ignited a fierce moshpit, and the crowd certainly grew more excited as Sansbury flung out free CDs, T-shirts and used drumsticks. When a crowd starts

getting antsy, it never hurts to throw out free stuff.

Unsurprisingly, Anubis was the crowd-pleaser of the night. From the minute they took the stage, there was an instant change of energy in the

room — Anubis are well-known in the Baltimore music scene for their energetic and absorbing live shows. The band did not fail to disappoint this night.

The Aberdeen, Md. quintet needed no time to warm-up: From the opening riff of "Heartless," guitarists Jarred Sleeth and Brian Smith and bassist Ryan Plunkett were already jumping off the risers placed at the top of

the stage. By the first breakdown, all three were furiously head-banging as singer Justin Severn let loose his inner demons to the crowd.

The latter were ready to mosh before the group even got on stage and quickly opened a huge hole in the middle of the floor to begin their frenzied release.

The group ran through many tried and true favorites, and gave the audience a taste of the upcoming album with "New Squared," a song set to be released with their new full-length album later this spring.

The quintet, rounded out by drummer Tony Marley, had no need to entice the crowd with free merchandise, but let their music and flawless live show speak for themselves. While they were able to squeeze one extra song into their set, screams of "One more song!" continued even after they finally left the stage.

Due to limited transportation options, I had to leave immediately after Anubis' set, and thus did not witness Cryptic Warning in action. However, it was worth the \$11 spent just to see Anubis play, and it is highly recommended you try to catch them at their next show.

—Vivi Machi

Last Week Live
Anubis Underground,
The Condemned,
Cryptic
Warning, Apophis,
Crimson Orchid

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Newest Justice League still packs a punch

By ALEX NEVILLE
Staff Writer

The last decade has seen DC Comics try several straight-to-DVD animated adaptations of their superhero properties starting with *Superman: Doomsday*, a retelling of the "Death of Superman" storyline from the comics.

The movies have had mixed success sometimes trimming down character moments and interesting subplots from the source material to squeeze it all into 75 minutes (why 75 minutes seems to be the default length for these films is still a mystery).

Justice League: Crisis on Two Earths has an advantage here as it is more of an original story than a straight adaptation of an existing comic book. The idea behind the story comes from the Grant Morrison and Frank Quitely graphic novel, *JLA: Earth 2*, as well as from a classic Silver Age Justice League story by Gardner Fox.

In Fox's story, the members of the Justice League visit an alternate reality where Ultraman, Superwoman, and Owlman (villainous counterparts to Superman, Wonder Woman, and Batman, respectively) reign as the Crime Syndicate.

But the movie doesn't follow either of those stories exactly scene-for-scene, and for that reason, it feels right for the 75; neither too long nor too short, with nothing crammed in or squeezed out.

The movie starts as Morrison's book did, with Lex Luthor from the parallel Earth coming to the Justice League to plea for help. Naturally, the League agrees, and what follows are some of the best action scenes I've ever seen, animated or not.

With a cast of shape-shifters, power-ring-wielders, people who can fly, stretch, and run faster than the speed of sound, as well as people with invisible jets and people who can shoot bolts of lightning from their hands — with no real limits to what they could do, the animators went wild. Every fight scene is worth watching, pausing, and re-watching.

Of course, a bunch of fight

scenes with inadequate characters would still be a pretty mediocre movie. Fortunately, in this case, screenwriter Dwayne McDuffie comes through.

McDuffie, a veteran comic book scripter and one of the writers for the old Cartoon Network Justice League series, does a fine job with the characters here. He has a knack for quick and funny dialogue; he knows when to use a good science-sounding word, and he knows how to make it sound convincing enough to explain some of the less plausible technology in the DC Universe.

His version of Wonder Woman is strong, but likeable; his Superman has a love for justice and sympathy for the less fortunate; his Batman is a calculating and capable brawler who watches out for his allies.

McDuffie gets the characters, and he understands well how to twist them in order to create their evil counterparts. Where Wonder Woman is noble and mature, Superwoman is a short-tempered psychopath, and Ultraman turns out to be a thug with a stereotypical wiseguy accent.

Owlman is the most interesting of the three main Crime Syndicate members. As played by James Woods and as written by McDuffie, he's a nihilistic character who only finds meaning in the act of killing. Woods gives him an unsettlingly calm and reasonable demeanor in contrast to his horrific goals.

Gina Torres, of *Firefly* fame, does an equally impressive job



COURTESY OF WWW.COMICBOOKMOVIE.COM

DC Comics brings together superhero favorites in the new DVD *Justice League: Crisis on Two Earths*.

with the voice of Superwoman. In contrast to the stiff military personality that her *Firefly* character put over her feelings, Superwoman is a petulant and spoiled teenager who does what she wants when she wants, and with whom ever is unlucky enough to have caught her attention. Her rough handling of Batman (like a cat with a mouse) and her attraction to Owlman are nicely captured here.

The one complaint that might be brought up against the casting is that none of the characters here are voiced by the actors who voiced them in the older Justice League cartoon.

Kevin Conroy is still working, and it wasn't so long ago that he voiced Batman for the game *Arkham Asylum* and for another DC animated release, *Superman/Batman: Public Enemies*. One wonders if he turned down the chance to voice the character again here, or if it never offered to him in the first place.

Included on the two-disc spe-

cial edition of the movie are two episodes of Justice League presented by producer Bruce Timm. Here, the Justice League encounters the Justice Lords, parallel universe versions of themselves who have taken drastic measures to end crime on their planet.

Also included on both the single-disc and two-disc special editions of the movie is a 10-minute animated short featuring the Spectre, a dead cop who comes back to life as the angel of death to punish murderers. The short starts out as a 70s cop show, but rapidly veers into Italian horror movie territory, recalling the work of Lucio Fulci, and earning the PG-13 rating on the box.

Ultimately, *Justice League: Crisis on Two Earths* is a fun, worthwhile adventure featuring familiar characters in an interesting science fiction story. Like the recent *Star Trek* reboot, it's built on character moments, a solid plot and spectacular action scenes to make a satisfying whole.

The Last Station dramatizes Tolstoy-era Russia

STATION, FROM B3

the Tolstoy family. Their goal is to prevent Sofya from corrupting Chertkov's plan to distribute Tolstoy's writings to the masses. However, Sofya begins to develop an affinity towards Bulgakov's endearingly naive charm.

She confides her marital problems in him and insists that he spy on Tolstoy and Chertkov.

Likewise, it seems Bulgakov begins to develop an affinity towards Sofya's magnetic and vociferous charm, and — paired with a new appreciation and understanding of women due to a consum-

ing new love interest of his own (played by the charming Kerry Condon) — it becomes exceedingly difficult for him to ignore her love-torn pleas.

Hoffman nicely juxtaposes Tolstoy and Sofya's old and convoluted love with Bulgakov's fresh, blossoming love.

Through her love-struck irrationality, Sofya Tolstoy comes alive. Helen Mirren deftly captures her torment and volatility. Although the audience may become hardened to her hypochondriac wails and temper tantrums, the driving impulses behind them are relatable.

She is fighting not only for the love of a husband growing increasingly alienated from her, but for her children and their future. Her vitality is defined by her irrational actions which are driven by her consuming love for Tolstoy.

Ironically, this very love spawns colonies of greed and distrust that prey on Tolstoy and nearly destroy him.

Tolstoy is torn between his passions. In accordance with the ideals of his movement, he seeks to propagate love and its various

forms to the masses.

Yet, the very essence of the love he aims to distribute seems to be in chaotic disarray in his own life: Tolstoy admits that at times he does not practice what he preaches.

He suffers the essential impasse of many artists: Does the man love his work more than his muse? Can he break free from either? And, finally, would breaking free liberate or enslave him? These questions make the film a success.

He is also burdened by the public's resolute tendency to sanctify him — and who wouldn't be? Stripped of his lit-

erary celebrity such as his productions of the remarkable *War and Peace* and *Anna Karenina*, he is a normal man ridden with interpersonal problems, uncertainty and existential dilemma.

Christopher Plummer portrays this beautifully. Chronicling the true angst of such an impressive man renders the film touching and universally appealing.

The Last Station starts and ends with the question of love. It also explores Chertkov's corruption of its puritan ideals, and the reality that far too often a movement's core principles can become tainted.

At times, it is exceedingly dramatic. Ultimately, it is not so much the screenplay that makes the movie a success, but its poignantly truthful storyline, beautiful setting and grandiose acting.

In *Anna Karenina*, Tolstoy wrote that there "are as many kinds of love as there are hearts." This concept of the innumerable forms of love is what drives the film. A contemplative and tearful spectator will exit the film, and ponder which variety he or she may seek.

THE LAST STATION

Starring: James McAvoy, Christopher Plummer, Helen Mirren, Paul Giamatti
Director: Michael Hoffman
Run Time: 112 min.
Rating: R
Playing at: The Charles Theatre

ARTIST Watson Twins

ALBUM

Talking to You Talking to Me

LABEL

Vanguard

RELEASED

Feb. 9, 2010

Known for their dulcet harmonies and their previous collaboration with Rilo Kiley's Jenny Lewis, The Watson Twins have released their second LP, *Talking to You Talking to Me*. Right on the heels of 2008's *Fire Songs*, their newest album explores the duo's traditional sound with a bit more infusion of soul and pop genres.



While a few of the tracks ("Harpeth River" and "Forever Me") take on a bit of Feist and Duffy in style, it is those which are most reminiscent of their first full length album's sound that are most pleasing to hear.

The Watson Twins' first EP, *Southern Manners*, kept to its title and the twins' heritage and featured a lot of southern influence in the jams. With the release of *Fire Songs*, the Watson Twins streamlined their sound by combining the overwhelming southern sound with pop, acoustic stylings and vocal harmonies to create a new sound.

Their newest attempts to veer from this genre aren't at all unpleasant to the ear, but Watson Twins fans may find themselves skipping over the tracks that lean more towards the soul side of the genre spectrum. Luckily, the majority of the tracks are more reminiscent of *Fire Songs*.

Where guitars were overwhelming the focal instrument in

their previous work, songs such as "Midnight" feature the plinking of a piano and a gentle percussion in the background. Whereas *Fire Songs* transports the listener to the flatbed of a pickup truck in the south, some tracks off *Talking* send the listener straight to a dimly lit nightclub in 20s era Chicago.

Highlight tracks include "Savin' You," "Modern Man" and the majority of the second half of the album. While it starts out rocky, the Watson Twins round out the LP with six solid tracks that are sure to sooth the indie-pop-alternative inclined listener.

Where the Watson Twins have always succeeded is their ability to mesh the instrumental and vocal sounds into a singular unit

that is rife with beautiful harmony and powerful lyrics. *Talking* is no exception and explores the limits of their sound and the continual mixing of genres.

—Christina Warner

NEW VIBRATIONS

ARTIST

Peter Gabriel

ALBUM

Scratch My Back

LABEL

EMI Label Services

RELEASED

March 2, 2010

Peter Gabriel of Genesis and solo fame steps out of classic rock on his latest disc, *Scratch My Back*, a collection of twelve covers of artists as varied as Lou Reed to Radiohead to David Bowie.

The idea behind this project is that each artist will cover one of Gabriel's songs in return, to be released on an album entitled *I'll Scratch Yours*.

I've never been a huge Genesis or Peter Gabriel solo fan, to be honest,

est. "Solsbury Hill" is a classic, of course, but Gabriel hasn't released an album since 2002. However, this modest array of tunes is a nice addition to his legacy, and a pretty innovative project.

Each track is fairly stripped down, using only orchestral instruments and Gabriel's warm, familiar vocals rather than full rock arrangements. As a result, these are not by-the-book covers, but rather, Gabriel's own interpretations, full of feeling and mood, transported to a different place than they were originally recorded.

I initially snapped up this disc after hearing his take on Arcade Fire's "My Body Is A Cage," the closer to their Neon Bible album. It's already an excellent song, all tense buildup and swelling instrumentation.

Gabriel's take is moody and more muted, his vocals raw and bare as the song rises from a spare piano accompaniment to a full-out sweep of violins. This is

one of those rare instances where I love this version as much, if not more, than the original.

Also familiar offerings are Gabriel's take on Bon Iver's "Flume," David Bowie's "Heroes," and "The Book Of Love" by The Magnetic Fields, featured prominently on the *Scrubs* series finale.

Gabriel infuses Bon Iver's wintry, cryptic ode with a sense of intimacy, the rich instrumentation pairing well with his assured vocals. Meanwhile, opener "Heroes" puts a new spin on Bowie's energetic, confident classic, turning it into a searching plea for love that overcomes all else.

Lead single "The Book Of Love" (backed by Magnetic Fields' frontman Stephen Merit's version of Gabriel's "Not One of Us") also seems tailor-made for Gabriel, so much so that I can imagine it being written by him originally. It's truly lovely.

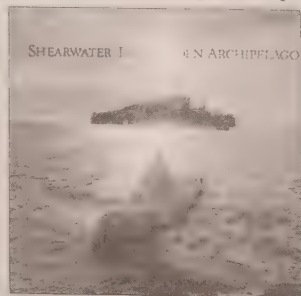
Throughout, this album is

relaxed and quiet, perfect for blissful out. There are points where such similarity of tone gets a bit exhausting, though, and I find that *Scratch My Back* is just as enjoyable when taken as individual tracks rather than as a cohesive statement album.

I can play "My Body Is A Cage" on repeat, but it takes real balls to take on Radiohead and even in spite of that, Gabriel's "Street Spirit (Fade Out)" is a little lagging. Nonetheless, this disc is a nice interplay between some of the classic rock greats (Neil Young, Talking Heads, and Bowie) and indie standards (Regina Spektor, Elbow).

Scratch My Back may not immediately strike your attention as a must-have, but it's worth a listen to see what Peter Gabriel can do. Many of the tracks here will blow you away.

—Melanie Love



ARTIST Shearwater

ALBUM

Golden Archipelago

LABEL

Matador Records

RELEASED

Feb. 23, 2010

Will Sheff (frontman and songwriter of Okkervil River) casts a pretty venerable shadow, but former Okkervil bandmate Jonathan Meiburg has forged a unique entity with Shearwater. Though the band originally began as a collaboration between Sheff and Meiburg in 2001 as an outlet from their Okkervil, Sheff eventually lessened

his role while Meiburg and left Okkervil River in 2008 to focus exclusively on Shearwater.

Previous albums *Palo Santo* and *Rook* were dense, complicated and strangely lovely. Particularly on the critically acclaimed *Rook*, Shearwater came together to create one of those albums that sweeps you up in their atmosphere and energy.

Meiburg's voice itself is an instant draw; it's assertive and theatrical, expressive in a way that's intriguingly divergent from Will Sheff's bare, ratcheting yowl. On earlier outings, it was often bare and fragile, surprising you with its strength at the very last moment.

The Golden Archipelago is distinctive, however, in its immediacy. The band strikes you with a carefully woven interplay of tense, dynamic song structures and gorgeously shimmering instrumentation.

On opener "Meridian," Mei-

burg's vocals are the anchoring force amid a seething sea of instruments that eventually die down to a lone haunting piano, all proof positive of the drama that Shearwater can create even without being in-your-face.

It leads right into "Black Eyes," where the group lets loose in a flurry of howling vocals and chugging guitars and drums. Much credit on this disc is due to drummer Thor Harris, who — like his name would imply — is a dramatically thundering asset to the rhythm section, going from subtle on "Runners of the Sun" to roiling on "Castaways."

Though *The Golden Archipelago* seems like an inviting title, this

album focuses more on destruction and invasion.

As such, an overriding sense of claustrophobia informs every note sung, every note played, pervading the seeming delicateness of the instrumentation and Meiburg's occasionally muted vocals (see "Hidden Lakes").

One of the many strengths of this album is the band's ability to measure rise and fall, whether it's following the spacious trajectory of "Castaways" with the hazy swaths of guitar on "An Insular Life," or the way Meiburg's explode into life on "Corridors" after nearly a minute of tense, swirling buildup.

And while much has been made of Meiburg's side career as

an ornithologist (studier of birds), the naturalism in his imagery is much more effective as a result of the sturdiness of his rhythm section. On previous albums, the band often seemed secondary to Meiburg's vocal prowess, but on *The Golden Archipelago*, they are inextricably wound.

The strong, heady mix of rambling keys, pounding drums, and sweeping guitars provides much of the strength of this disc, and it is precisely what allows for Meiburg's acrobatic vocal experimentation.

This release builds on what *Palo Santo* and *Rook* began, proving just what a force Shearwater can and will be. They're just getting better and better, combining their tight instrumentation and poetic sensibility into an album that will make you think and pay attention.

—Melanie Love



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Let There Be Love mixes sad and glad

By THOMAS DANNER
For *The News-Letter*

Playwright Kwame Kwei-Armah's *Let There Be Love* is a thoughtful glimpse into the world of a man who has reached the end of his life with little to show for it.

Alfred (Avery Brooks) is a father of two extremes: He is constantly seeking to reconcile his disappointment over his children's failure with his own mistreatment of his ex-wife and family. A goat farmer from West India-turned-London immigrant, Alfred worked tirelessly, investing in his two daughters' lives.

Yet, his children — "ungrateful bitches," as he calls them — disappoint. "When you throw away your life for your family," he says, "you expect something in return." What Alfred gets is Gemma (Pascale Armand), a financially dependent 30 year old with a coke habit.

A bit of brightness comes into Alfred's life when he meets Maria (Gretchen Hall), a white, Polish immigrant whom his daughters hired to clean the house and look after him. Though initially quite hostile to the girl — yelling and delivering constant threats of bodily harm while brandishing a cane — the two become close friends.

The language gap is apparent from the start and provides much of the play's comic relief. Whenever Maria uses the wrong verb tense, Alfred impatiently corrects her.

At one point, Alfred angrily tells Maria to "Get the f--- out of my house." Maria asks why he uses such language, which prompts Alfred to explain, "It imparts a certain urgency to my speech."

Maria and Alfred have similar backgrounds. Both immigrated to London in search of a better life, yet they have neither found success nor managed to fully integrate into the new culture. Though the two have pasts that are full of demons and regrets, much of their dialogue remains jovial and lighthearted.

Alfred's character is paradoxical and, at times, hypocritical. He lauds the virtues of hard work, fidelity and honesty, yet later tells Maria about his affairs with other women and the nights that he spent gallivanting around town, spending all of his ex-wife's money. One gets the sense that he promulgates a code of judgment from which he himself is typically exempt.

However, once Alfred's real condition is revealed, the audience feels sympathetic. He is a weak, tired man hiding behind a façade of strength, searching for love, happiness and reconciliation for his past wrongs.

At times, Maria's undying interest in Alfred's life and well-being, combined with Alfred's stream of self-aggrandizing, reminiscent dialogue, made the play seem laborious. However, Kwei-Armah certainly succeeded in portraying Alfred's range of emotions as he approaches his death. There is a convincing shift from a cold, hard Alfred who seems to care nothing for reconciliation

with his ex-wife and children to an Alfred who is relieved that such reconciliation — no matter how artificial — finally arrives.

Centerstage delivered a solid production. The set remains fixed throughout the play, reflecting Alfred's limited living environment. The wallpaper and carpet clash slightly, both featuring rather garish and dated patterns. A well-worn red sofa serves as the centerpiece for the majority of the play's scenes. The lighting and music were both well done, nicely complementing the mood and action taking place on stage.

Brooks was superb. With an articulate West-Indian accent, he portrays Alfred as full of charisma and spontaneity. His verbal subtleties and idiosyncrasies, which, as he explains to Maria, are "articulation[s] of acute dissatisfaction," enliven the dialogue. This delivery, coupled with his gestures and non-verbal cues, make him a delight to watch.

Armand and Hall also have solid performances, though their chemistry with one another does not match Brooks' natural stage presence. If ever they falter in delivering a line or slip out of accent, it is quickly drowned out by Brooks' booming and melodic dialogue.

Whether the ending seems overly sentimental or inauthentic is arguably a reflection of the playgoer's taste. All would agree, though, that it is memorable and emotionally charged, leaving a lasting image of Alfred, Gemma and Maria — three individuals who, despite their own misgivings, eventually choose to "let there be love."

Let There Be Love is showing at Centerstage (700 N. Calvert St., www.centerstage.org) through March 7. Tickets range from \$10 to \$60.

Hopkins professor brings *Putty Hill* to Berlin

By PHYLLIS ZHU
Staff Writer

When *The News-Letter* spoke with Professor Matt Porterfield of the Film and Media Studies Department last year, he was working on the film *Metal Gods*, which follows a group of Baltimore delinquents and their passion for heavy metal.

Though the project fell through due to lack of funding, Porterfield and crew have just returned from Berlinale's International Forum on New Cinema, where his new film *Putty Hill* made its world premiere.

The Berlinale is one of the largest film festivals in the world, featuring hundreds of films shown in several different categories. *Putty Hill* was entered into the Forum, which is comprised of more experimental genres. More well-known names, like *Shutter Island*, entered the Competition section.

"With my first film, *Hamilton*, we played in Vienna and the Stockholm International Film Festival, so I got to tour around a little, but no festival the size of this. Berlinale is a competition and a market. It's up there with Sundance, Toronto, Telluride and Cannes," Porterfield said.

Putty Hill instantly received significant praise from critics.

"It happened really fast, but response was overwhelmingly positive. The German press and the Austrian press were really excited about the film. It touched upon some common themes but was not really like anything people had seen before. We had a sold out press screening, and afterwards we were invited to 10 international festivals immediately," the director said.

The film got a different reaction back home, but Porterfield shrugged it off.

"Our first review in *The Hollywood Reporter* was a total pan, but



COURTESY OF CORY DONOVAN
Matt Porterfield, a Hopkins professor, finds critical film success on a global scale.

in a way it's nice to get that out of the way. I'm just gonna shake it off and figure that it's one critic's opinion," he said.

The Baltimore filmmaker had originally planned to shoot *Metal Gods* last summer but came upon financial roadblocks.

"We began casting for *Metal Gods* in November 2008 and began the development process, including looking for financing, which is a big piece. A lot of times we find financing first and then start development and pre-production," he said.

"In the end we couldn't find the money for *Metal Gods*, but we had this cast and crew in place in a number of locations we wanted to work. I was able to switch gears pretty easily and use those ingredients to build an original project from them."

What arose from the ashes of

Metal Gods was an amalgamation of documentary and narrative that Porterfield describes as an unconventional work.

"It's an attempt at a kind of realism but with subversion of traditional narrative devices and use of a lot of documentary tools. Throughout there are talking-head interviews of the actors who are playing themselves. The only fictional element is the narrative surrounding the death of the boy."

Porterfield said that the making of his second complete feature was a different experience for him and his crew.

"The first time [with *Hamilton*] I went in with everything planned in advance, with more organizationally in place. I had a full script, a shooting schedule, a shot list and time for rehearsals with the cast. It was

more traditional, but when I was forced to switch gears with a month and a half to go to shoot in August, it freed me up in a way to work more improvisationally with my cast and crew," he said.

"The level of performance was a lot higher. I let my crew focus on articulating the image and I spent as much time as I could to make the actors feel confident so they could deliver an emotionally honest performance."

The cast, which includes five Hopkins students, is an eclectic mix of Baltimoreans that encompasses "a wide net" of people, according to Porterfield.

"None of the actors are professionals. Mainly they're just people I met through the audition process of *Metal Gods* and people I met on the street. I met Spike, who plays a tattoo artist in the film, at a bar in the neighborhood where I grew up," he said.

"I'll approach a stranger and be like, 'You wanna be in a movie?' because there's really nothing to lose."

When asked if the setting of Baltimore was essential to the film, Porterfield replied that the city was, "for me, an important character."

"It's where I was born and where I was raised, so I know it well. I feel like art is a necessity in this city in a way that it's not in larger cities," he said.

"For example, in New York, art is more of a commodity, but here it's really a tool in expression. Because it's such a stratified city along the lines of race and class, I think bridging lines of communication in our work is really important."

Putty Hill's U.S. debut is set to take place at the South by Southwest (SXSW) film festival in Austin, Tx. next month.

For more information, check out their Web site at puttyhillmovie.com.

Lost's final season brings more confusion and questions

By KRISTIAN JOHNSON
For *The News-Letter*

Lost has returned for its final season, bringing with it the end of one of the most fascinating shows on T.V. Unlike any other show, *Lost* does not allow viewers to escape to a place where there are neat resolutions that contrast the messy lives more often found in reality.

Instead, it takes fans to a place where there are far more questions than answers, questions that are seemingly never answered for seasons at a time.

But a question is a far guiltier pleasure than an answer. When we ask a question, we already have certain expectations or ideas of what the answer could be. These may be based on our mundane experiences, but it is possible that the answer far exceeds anything we initially imagined, something outside of what we thought was possible. Such is the case of *Lost*.

Admittedly, the show has

used the questions sometimes as gimmicks to carry a plot that has veered from the mysterious to the ridiculous. It is, however, what has kept the fans' attention for all of the slow and lovey-dovey moments. In its final season, though, there is the danger of trying to answer all of the questions that have been posed in this single season. People might lose interest.

The answers to all of those burning questions that kept have kept *Lost* fanatics up at night might not be worth it and may disappoint.

However, the show is not just about the cliffhangers. *Lost* has developed an incredibly wide array of deep and complex characters through its six seasons, through the narrative flash forwards, backwards and parallel worlds (God/Jacob, help us!), through the hundreds of intricately connected and sometimes frustratingly useless back stories, and, of course, time travel.

Viewers have gotten to know the whole gang pretty well and want them to have some sort of happy resolution in the end. The small moments, such as when Locke talks to Jack at baggage retrieval in "LAX," the first double-featured episode of the season, will catch catch viewers off guard and upstage everything else. The plot may have "jumped the shark" a few times, but the characters have thankfully kept it relatable.

The following takes a look at the sixth season thus far and will include spoilers. For those who haven't yet caught up with the Feb. 23 episode, then read no further.

To start, the writers have added a new narrative device. The atomic bomb that was detonated at the end of the fifth season has somehow created a parallel reality in which Flight 815 does indeed make it to L.A.

In each episode, the narrative follows one main character in the familiar reality (everyone is still on the island, very confused and angry), and also the parallel reality in which they are living a life they could have had.

Of course, in the parallel story everyone meets one another randomly. For example, Kate holds a taxi driver hostage in his cab

that just happens to have Claire in the backseat. This new storytelling device does work and adds some new elements, but leaves viewers wondering why exactly there are two stories and if there is indeed a point. Let us recap what has happened so far character by character.

Our beloved, overweight Hurley has taken a central role. Jacob's spirit has apparently decided to channel his wishes through the most incompetent member of the gang.

Jacob uses Hurley to convince everyone to bring the dying Sayid to a temple that is hidden behind the mysterious walls where the smoke monster had pulled the French guys. Jacob has continued reappearing to him but Hurley still has spent much of the past few episodes looking for food in the temple.

Last season it was revealed that Locke was really dead. Now it appears that something had taken his form. In the first episode this season, fake-Locke became the smoke monster who is also the "man in black." The smoke monster is some sort of antagonist to the saintly Jacob and wants to go "home." Where "home" might be is anyone's guess, but it can be supposed that it is off the island.

Juliet somehow, and unbelievably, survives the H-bomb blast, only to die in the wreckage later. Sawyer is enraged and puts on a permanent scowl, which will cause viewers to wonder if his face ever gets tired. He splits from the group when at the temple and is then seduced by fake-Locke into joining some sort of alliance so as to escape the island. Sawyer is still a bit wary, however.

Everyone's favorite convict, Kate, runs away from the temple as well, in search of Sawyer, but then decides to find Claire. She



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It might be a parallel universe, but *Lost*'s Kate and Jack still find the time to flirt in the alternate "present."

spends a lot of time walking or rushing through the jungle undergrowth.

Sayid dies in the first episode when brought to the temple, but miraculously reanimates in the last second of the episode. But before everyone can forget that he was once not breathing, the samurai man who is head of the temple becomes skeptical.

He does some tests on him (which looks more like torture, when he touches Sayid with a hot poker and he screams in pain), which apparently conclusively point out something wrong. Sayid has been "infected" with the same thing that infected Claire. Was it the smoke monster that infected him? Is he now evil?

Poor Jack just seems to have no luck and is constantly punched in the face. He heads to the temple with everyone in the group where eventually the samurai asks him to kill Sayid.

Honest Jack refuses, always asking questions but getting nowhere. He follows Hurley to a lighthouse that they have never seen before on the island, and he finds out that Jacob has been watching him throughout his entire life through special mirrors.

As mentioned before, Jacob's spirit is alive and roaming around the island, giving instructions to

Hurley. Fake-Locke shows Sawyer a cave with names on the ceiling, many of which are crossed out, explaining that Jacob is looking for a successor to look after the island.

Jacob has been following everyone since they were young (which certainly makes Facebook stalking seem a whole lot less serious) and has subtly manipulated them to coming to the island.

Clearly not in her right mind, Claire has been living alone, feverishly searching for her son. She has spent the rest of her time killing people who she thinks took him. Apparently, this is what happens when you become "infected." Claire captures Jin, who is scared out of his mind and does not trust her sanity.

It will certainly be interesting to find out how the *Lost* writers tie everything together. Perhaps there will be some sort of collision between the parallel narratives, which will explain why there was a split in the first place.

There may be an epic battle between fake-Locke and the main characters, during which Jack will emerge victorious and assume the title of "protector of the island." Whichever way the writers decide to go, *Lost* will most likely end up posing a lot more questions before they answer the ones already on the table.

Muldoon lectures on fish and poetry

FROM MULDOON, B3

Muldoon said at one point in his increasingly sexual close analysis, provoking laughs from the audience.

Another selection, "The Gutteral Muse," was written by renowned Irish poet Seamus Heaney, who met Muldoon at Queen's Belfast University and has since worked closely with him.

In his reading, Muldoon noted several allusions to writers and poems, like the Irish novelist Elizabeth Bowen and her work *The Heat of the Day*, which appears in the second line of the poem.

Throughout, Muldoon makes subtle references to his younger sister, Maureen, who died of cancer in 2005.

Muldoon said that Maureen had paid a visit him in Dublin and "checked herself into a

convent in which fallen women were rehabilitated."

However, prefacing the reading of his last poem, "The Shannon Estuary Welcoming the Fish" by Nuala Ni Dhomhnaill, Muldoon says that his sister found herself being "predator rather than prey" and taking pride in the act of "reeling in priests, hooking them, landing them."

It becomes apparent, then, that the topic of fishing and fishermen (or "fishers of men") is more personal than he revealed at first.

His collection of poems, *Horse Latitudes* (2006), is dedicated to Maureen and also netted him the T.S. Eliot Prize.

Muldoon, who has been writing for more than 30 years, published his most recent collection of poems, *Maggot*, earlier this year.

CARTOONS, ETC.

Blue Jay Brigade

By Kevin Li

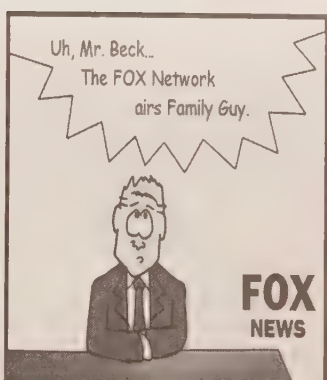
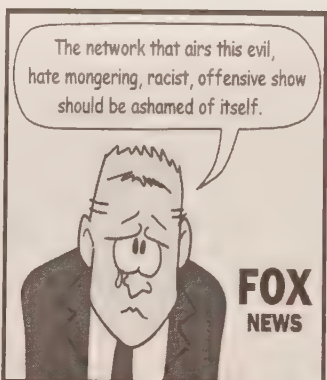
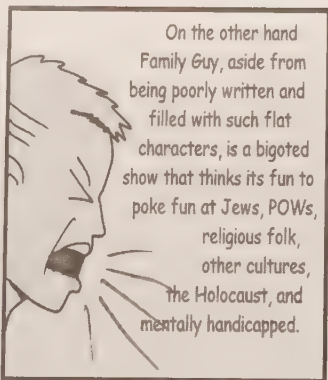
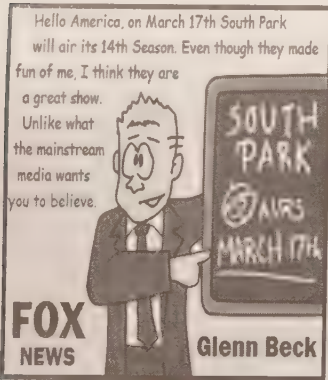


Kevin Li

Saumya Gurbani
Pun Intended

What kind of room has no windows?
Steve Jobs' room.

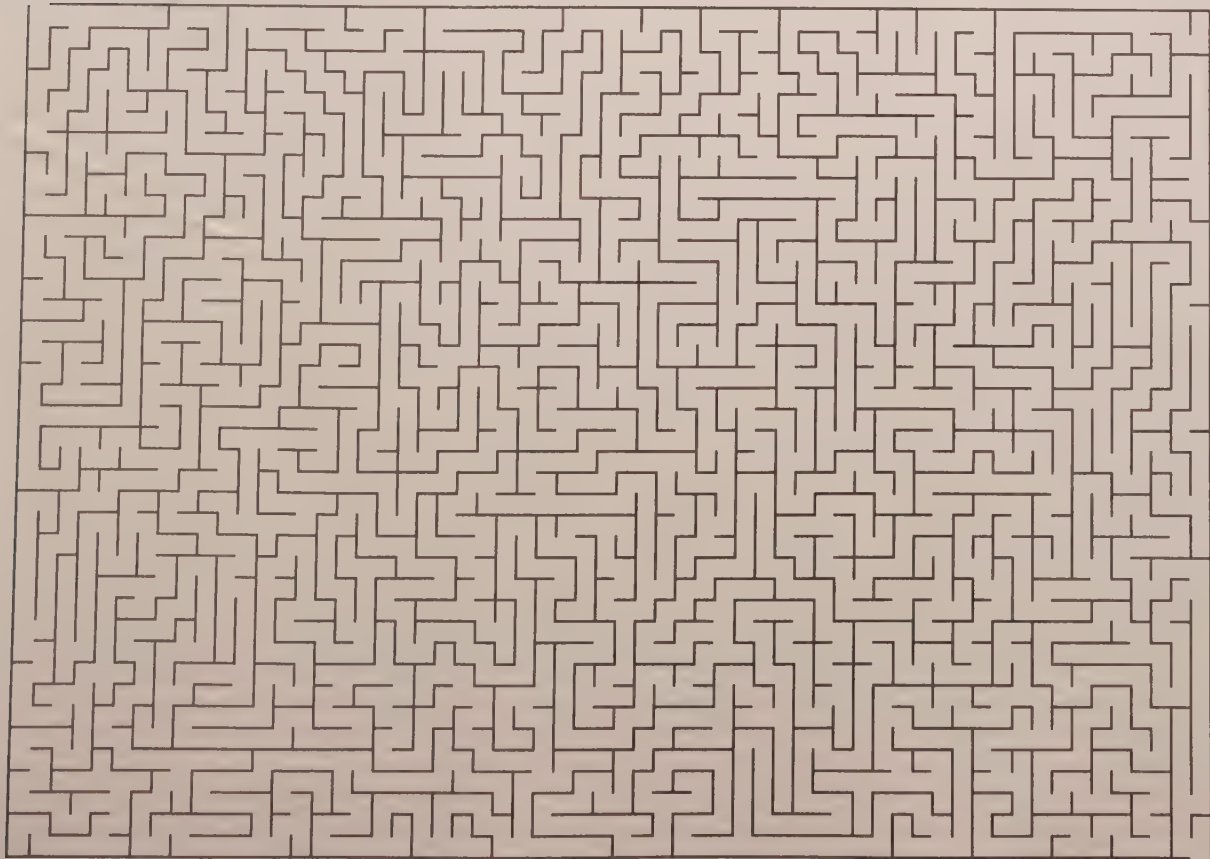
Good Night and Good Luck



By Kevin Li

News-Letter Maze

HELP THE HOPKINS
STUDENT FIND HIS WAY TO
THE LACROSSE GAME!



Yes, I was Caught in the
Stack

Let me address some accusations that have been made against me:

The sharp blade of her invective cut my cheek to the quick, a modest drip emerging. She delves deep, takes no prisoners. Perhaps she pauses occasionally but only for agonizing effect.

Elizabeth Bennet comes, I go. But for now her style is left unknown.

She caught my eye from across the room — firm, understated, just worn enough, breasts spilling out of her bindings. She smelled of austerity, respect, a different time — very good condition.

I approached her frazzled. She was more than I was used to taking on. My favorites were fledgling Lolitas, short in length and modest in intentions. She was something else.

She was well wrought, painstakingly groomed, made up to look the part. She was far beyond my league.

Nonetheless, I decided to take a stroll past her. I swear she smiled. She was the protagonist; I was the innocent, the passerby. I made like I was looking for something. I passed Barth, Beckett, Breton (all future conquests I hope) and stopped for a moment to make an attempt at conversation with the master's Margarita. (I don't discriminate between men, women, trans-sexual, bisexual — as long as they are homoerogenous they'll do just fine. Don't tell Elizabeth, please don't tell her . . . but I don't think I've got the stamina for any of them yet.)

I braved to take another pass, my clumsy feet bumping their way back down the row. Checkov and Bely on my left, Dovlatov and Dostoevsky on my right; I was surrounded by Russians, I stood next to the underground man for god's sake, what would you have done in my place?

I finally came back, stooped down low, making chit-chat with a few of her friends before we finally shared our first moment together.

The conversation was simple, fun, no innuendo I can assure you. But she asked me to meet her back at the same time, next week which I did. Our editor's introduction, if you will, had begun.

I came back the next week,

and she finally opened up to me, revealing a yellowing smile bound with age, wisdom, and crumbling adhesive. She asked me whether I wanted to pick her up the next night and pick her up. I said yes.

Today was to be our first date, but instead I'm left here, shelved at home, bored and alone. But now I will never know where her whims would have taken us, where her power and fragility would have lead, for it is due to my relationship all because of the god damn sorrows of young Werther — the rat.

He was my first protagonist, the one who showed me the ropes.

I must have stumbled upon him accidentally, while doing research for one thing or the other but to be honest I do not recall our first meeting or any specifics, just the odysseys.

My sojourns with him are rough, messy, epistolary:

He always goes first. After a contemplative pause and a flick of the wrist I retaliate (I'm just trying to keep up). His type is glib, raw, vindictive. My best attempts to answer back, to live up

to his example usually fall short but I endeavor nonetheless.

You see, I'm an innocent here — I'm not responsible. They come on to me.

Yes, I like it. F***, I love it. But I'm not to be held responsible for his engagement of others.

He's come on me before — we don't use protection. Nothing can mediate our intercourse.

This is the first time I've lost control after mounting Freitag, usually I manage to make use of my own Anna which I keep faithfully at my side during all of my visits.

I will not apologize for my actions, for I was not the aggressor. Holden, Scheherazade, even Nick Bottom they've all abducted me. They had the first word. I only strive to get in the last.

Let me say here that I will not pay my fine; I will not sacrifice my right to wander the stacks of intellectual stimulation and cerebral climax!

Nevertheless, I would like to apologize to Werther's next client for any interruption in your affair, page 116 to be specific — a subtle page, calm, gentle, yet provocative, but also the beginning of a restless denouement.

Jeremy Bremer
Kierkegaard's Smile

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Hopkins acquires iCT scanner for brain surgery

By IRMA ZHANG
Staff Writer

Last December, Hopkins Bayview Campus became one of only two institutes in the country to use the intraoperative CT scanner to aid in complex brain surgeries.

According to Alessandro Olivi, chair of the neurosurgery department at Hopkins Medical Institute, the iCT scanner's main purposes are precise control over surgery and the improvement of patient safety. The scanner monitors a surgery's progress in real time, eliminating the need to transfer the patient to another room for imaging, and uses a navigational wand points to the area that needs to be operated upon, improving the accuracy of surgery.

The iCT was installed last December during the expansion of the newly-constructed set of operating rooms.

"These two rooms are designed to be continuous, and in the middle, there is a CT scan," Olivi said. "The CT scan has the ability to move on rails and serve the two operating rooms. If I have a case right now in this operating room, I will be able to use the CT Scan, even though they are operating in the other room."

The introduction of the iCT to the Bayview Campus was no small feat. Olivi collaborated with a former Hopkins Neurosurgery Resident, Eric Sipos, now the medical director at the Ari-

zona Institute, to obtain a model that would be used in the newly constructed operating rooms.

Before the introduction of the iCT, surgeons often based their surgery on CT scans that were taken hours, and even days, before the scheduled surgery. This often becomes a problem, as the

of devices such as spine pins. If the procedure was not satisfactory, the patient would have been re-scheduled for more surgeries, which could lead to further complications. However, with the iCT, doctors can immediately verify if the procedure was successful.

perk offered by the iCT. With a complicated LED system, as well as a razor-edge precision system, the iCT fuses together technology to make a perfect precision machine. Its operation revolves around the focal factors of planning, navigation and verification.

The iCT scan combines what is known as the three modalities: the CT scan that outlines bone structures, the MRI done the day before that outlines soft tissue, and the CTA, a CAT scan with a CT angiogram that outlines the blood vessels.

The images are then fused together to form an effective model of the locations of the key blood vessels, tumors and bones. A navigational wand pinpoints the exact site of the operation. It gives a clear marker in order to ensure optimal accuracy.

"It is improved navigation with more precision," Olivi said. "That is very important when you plan the surgery, and you want to avoid vital structures, preserve vital structures and identify the margins of the tumor. We also must consider verification. We verify that the blood vessel is still patent, verify that the tumor is being

indeed completely resected and verify that there are no hemorrhages."

Previously, 60 to 70 percent of tumors could be successfully removed during surgery. The iCT could help that number jump to about 98 percent. Such accurate technology is especially useful for catheter insertion in the brain, as well as the insertion of screws in the spine.

In one particular case, the navigational wand was immediately able to show the operators that the screws were not placed in the correct locations along the spine. Within a matter of minutes, the surgeons were able to return to surgery to rectify the situation.

Learning how to operate the iCT was not simple. A few months earlier, a Hopkins team was sent to the Carondelet Neurological Institute in Tucson, where the other iCT is located. Hopefully in time, teams at both of the hospitals will be able to combine data and results to evaluate the impact of the iCT on patients.

When asked if Hopkins proposes to purchase more iCTs, Dr. Olivi chuckled. "Definitely not in the short term in this hospital," he said. However, he hopes that such a setup will influence other institutions and hospitals to embrace this new technology.



COURTESY OF WWW.HOPKINSBAYVIEW.ORG
The intraoperative CT scanner allows image to be done at the same time and location as the operation.

positions of healthy or cancerous tissue can shift even in the brief time between imaging and surgery.

Post-procedure, patients had to be wheeled out of the operating room and into the radiology department, where more scans would verify the removal of the tumor, or the successful insertion

"The patient does not move," Olivi said. "The patient remains strictly in the operating position. It is the CT scan that goes to the patient and comes back in the resting position, and that allows us to have an advanced set of images that we can use during the case."

But portability is not the only



COURTESY OF WWW.WELLNESSUNCOVERED.COM
The Lancet formally retracted the 1998 paper linking childhood vaccines with autism

Controversial study linking vaccines to autism retracted

By TIFFANY NG
Science & Technology Editor

More than a decade since being published, the study that linked the measles, mumps and rubella vaccine to the onset of autism has been retracted.

Originally published in 1998 in *The Lancet*, one of the world's premier medical journals, the article held that the administration of the MMR vaccine directly caused pervasive developmental disorders, which include autism and psychosis, in the children that were studied.

The researchers hypothesized that the virus used in the vaccine caused gastrointestinal inflammation. This inflammation causes the walls of the bowel to become more porous and allow material in the gastrointestinal tract to seep into the blood, affecting the nervous system and causing autism.

The study was retracted last month after an investigation by the UK General Medical Council found not only that the findings proved to be incorrect, but that the lead author of the study, Andrew Wakefield, a researcher in the Department of Gastroenterology at the Royal Free Hospital in London, severely violated ethical standards of conduct.

This retraction comes nearly six years after a letter in *The Lancet*, written by the Vice Dean at the Royal Free Hospital, confirmed the paper's veracity and upheld the fact that the experiments were thoroughly reviewed

by the appropriate ethical committees. This letter was published in response to significant criticism and skepticism in the scientific community on many of the claims made in the paper.

Additionally, studies that tried

to replicate

Wakefield's

results fell

short. "Many

rigorously per-

formed epide-

miologic stud-

ies have failed

to find a link

between vac-

cination and

ASDs [Autism

Spectrum Dis-

orders]," said

Margaret Fal-

lin, an associ-

ate professor of

epidemiology

at the Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Scientists still do not know the exact cause of autism. "There are a tremendous number of unanswered questions about autism," said Deepa Menon, the Assistant Medical Director at the Center for Autism and Related Disorders at Hopkins' Kennedy Krieger Institute.

"Current research in the field suggests that autism is a disorder with a strong genetic underpinning," Menon said. "The thinking today is that there are environmental factors which trigger autism in children who are already genetically susceptible."

According to the investigation, Wakefield did not have his tests approved by any ethics committee. His claims that the children that participated in the study were "consecutively referred" to the department of pediatric gastroenterology were also found to be fabricated. Their admissions were premeditated instead.

SEE LANCET, PAGE B8

Fruit fly eyes provide model for human retina

By SAM OHMER
Staff Writer

Scientists at the Hopkins School of Medicine's Center for Sensory Biology now have a greater understanding of the workings of the fruit fly's eye, an understanding that may one day help human patients suffering from degenerative diseases of the retina.

The scientists, led by senior researcher Craig Montell, have undertaken the study of the visual system in *Drosophila* fruit flies. They discovered that there actually exists a mechanism to recycle the chromophore, which is a small molecule in the photoreceptor cells that is responsible for absorbing light, thereby signaling to the vision center that something has been seen.

"Until now, it has not been possible to use *Drosophila* as an animal model to characterize the visual cycle, since it is thought that flies do not use such a cycle," Montell said.

This recycling was previously thought to be unnecessary in *Drosophila*, because the species in fact possesses chromophores that are both activated and deactivated by absorbing light. Destroying chromophores would seem to have little use in this context.

However, Montell and his colleagues studied the visual system in *Drosophila*, making some very important discoveries: flies lacking a particular enzyme, called PDH, will eventually become blind when exposed to light and by substituting a similar mammalian enzyme for PDH, the flies can avoid such blindness.

Furthermore, flies deprived of vitamin A who were PDH-normal did not suffer from the same visual debilitation as PDH-lacking flies, suggesting that the degeneration is due to an inability to recycle the chromophore and not from the inability to create new chromophores from dietary vitamins.

PDH is an enzyme that helps to convert the chromophore from its activated state to its inactivated state. If flies are unable to undertake this process, when they don't have any vitamins to create new chromophores, they



COURTESY OF WWW.BIOPIX.COM
The visual cycle of fruit flies is more similar to that of humans than previously thought.

eventually become blind. Thus, PDH seems to be a necessary enzyme in the *Drosophila* visual cycle.

Montell and his fellow scientists see PDH as a protective mechanism employed by *Drosophila* under harsh, vitamin-deficient conditions, when creation of new chromophores is almost impossible. This security measure therefore helps keep *Drosophila* from becoming blind, an important evolutionary mechanism that is seen repeated in the mammalian visual cycle.

For mammals, the chromophores (which cannot be deactivated by being hit by a second photon of light, unlike the *Drosophila* chromophores) are recycled and returned to the photoreceptor cells after having been converted back into the inactivated form in the retinal pigmented epithelium.

Even more interestingly, some human photoreceptors, called intrinsically photoreceptive retinal ganglion cells (ipRGCs) are very much like *Drosophila* photoreceptors in that they contain chromophores that are both activated and deactivated by light. Thus, this finding in *Drosophila* may represent a mechanism common to mammalian ipRGCs.

Even if it doesn't, however, the discovery of a previously uncharacterized visual cycle in *Drosophila* presents a great boon to sensory system scientists:

Now, with the finding of a closer parallel between mammalian and *Drosophila* visual cycles, scientists may now be able to use the *Drosophila* system as an analog to the mammalian one in order to better study and elucidate the mechanisms behind various pathologies, especially retinal degeneration.

"Defects in this cycle are a leading cause of retinal degeneration and blindness. Currently, there are no effective treatments for this common form of blindness," Montell said. "[However], we show that *Drosophila* and mammals use similar enzymatic visual cycles to regenerate the chromophore."

Montell and colleagues' finding reminds us that, although invertebrate biological systems are often different from vertebrate — and in particular mammalian — ones, they can also be valuable sources of insight into the mechanisms of vertebrate pathways.

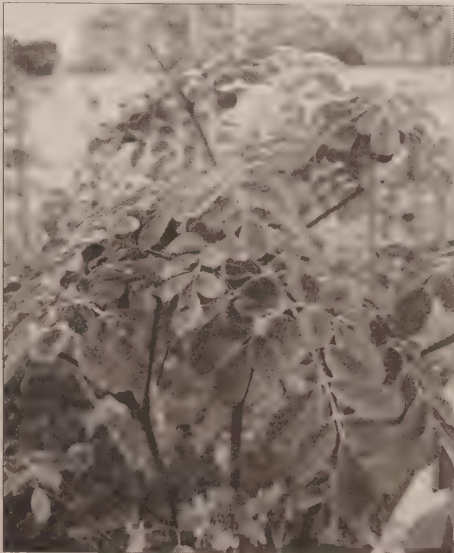
Nowhere is this more important than in pathological settings, when it is most crucial to understand the biomolecular underpinnings of a system.

"Our findings open the possibility of using *Drosophila* to screen for genetic suppressors and drugs that reduce the retinal degeneration and blindness resulting from mutations affecting the visual cycle," Montell said.

"Miracle Tree" could feed the hungry

By BARBARA HA
Staff Writer

Since ancient times, plants have played a pivotal role in the development of medicines for treating various ailments. Before the emergence of biotechnology, traditional healers used what was found in nature to concoct medicines for common ailments and provide nutritious supplements for their patients.



COURTESY OF WWW.ILOVEMORINGA.COM
Moringa oleifera can be a cheap, locally grown food source.

Not long ago, a tree known as *Moringa oleifera*, commonly referred to as "The Miracle Tree," has resurfaced as a powerful source of nutrients, widely available in nature.

Common in regions where there are not many industrialized hospitals, *M. oleifera* grows in the dry tropics of Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean — regions of the world most burdened by under-nutrition, especially among children.

A group of researchers at the Bloomberg School of Public Health have recently investigated the various international aid agencies' integration of the *M. oleifera* into their nutrition programs for the general public.

School of Medicine Nutritional Biochemist Jed Fahey was approached by a graduate student who had worked in West Africa, where the plant grows

abundantly.

The student "was not satisfied with the quality of evidence supporting efforts to promote it," said Fahey, who also served as a lead investigator on the study.

"I asked her to figure out how to challenge those who now recklessly promote it as a panacea, without abandoning the very great promise that this plant holds from a nutritional perspective in a broad swath of marginalized communities throughout the dryland tropics," he said.

In this study, Fahey and his colleagues applied a theory called "Diffusion of Innovation" to *M. oleifera*. The theory begins with an innovator, usually a traditional healer.

From the innovator, the responsibility is then shifted to early adopters, who can be international organizations, health care practitioners or private sector companies, who hear anecdotes about the positive effects of *M. oleifera*.

From these early adopters, five attributes must be fulfilled in order to convince later adopters to implement and utilize *M. oleifera* in the production and distribution of their medicines:

SEE MORINGA, PAGE B9

Personalized cancer markers track tumor cells

Sequencing of unique tumor DNA rearrangements allows scientists to observe cancer cell movement and growth

By **MO-YU ZHOU**
Staff Writer

A pilot study from the Hopkins Kimmel Cancer Center on rapid sequencing may allow for the use of a mere blood test to track cancer.

Such a technique is made possible by monitoring patients for chromosomal abnormalities and thereby detecting tumors. The research is a huge step not only for cancer research, but also for personalized medicine.

The study, which was published in the Feb. 24 issue of *Science Translational Medicine*, offers

hope for cancer patients. Thus far, treatment for cancer has been hampered by what one of the researchers, graduate student Rebecca Leary of the Kimmel Cancer Center, calls “the complexity of the cancer genome landscape,” which had been observed in the lab for the past several years.

But there are some aspects of cancer cells that allowed this research to happen.

“The observation that structural alterations are a near universal feature of human cancer informed our current study,” Leary said.

The technique developed by

the researchers is called Personalized Analysis of Rearranged Ends (PARE). Using whole-genome sequencing, genetic alterations called rearrangements were identified from two breast and four colorectal cancer samples. The rearrangements, the researchers found through comparison with a normal human genome sequence, are specific to the individual’s tumor.

The rearrangements can then be used to develop biomarkers that track tumor DNA in the patient’s blood. In other words, rearrangements from the tumor can also be observed in blood

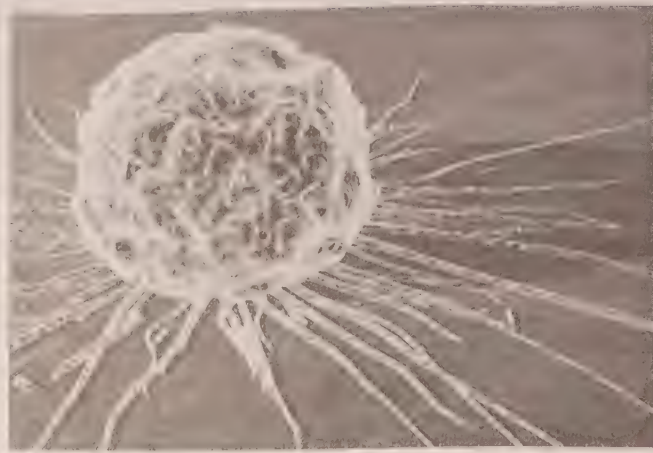
through DNA shed from the tumor and amplified through polymerase chain reaction (PCR). This technique can be extended for use over time as a means of monitoring the course of the disease over time as patients undergo treatment, i.e. chemotherapy and surgery.

The researchers were happy with their findings. “[We were] pleased to see extraordinarily high sensitivity and specificity of the rearrangement specific biomarkers,” Leary said. On the other hand, this being a pilot study, the methods employed were tested using six tumors in the study and will therefore likely undergo further fine-tuning in order to be ready for widespread use.

“We feel that the results of this first study are promising, but plan to analyze many more tumor types to determine optimal clinical applications,” Leary said.

Nonetheless, the research hints at great potential in terms of these clinical applications. The aforementioned use of PARE biomarkers over the course of a patient’s treatment may be used to determine if the treatment has been successful or if further treatment is necessary. In addition, the PARE technique could potentially be used on surgical margins, lymph nodes and other bodily fluids.

While the estimated cost of the method is about \$5,500 per sample, taking into account sequencing, data analysis, design and testing of the biomarker, costs of sequencing, which comprise about 90 percent of the costs, are likely to plummet after researchers have passed the initial design phase.



COURTESY OF WWW.ALLTHINGSBEAUTIFUL.COM
Cells with high levels of ALDH expression were significantly more prone to metastasis.

Expression of cancer protein indicates lethality of disease

By **ALEENA LAKHANPAL**
Staff Writer

Researchers at Hopkins’ Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center have discovered that the expression of an enzyme called aldehyde dehydrogenase, or ALDH, is a sign for lower survival rates in patients with pancreatic cancer.

“It’s well recognized that this enzyme can confer chemotherapeutic resistance in many different kinds of cells,” said William Matsui, one of the lead investigators.

ALDH may be expressed by both normal cells and cancer stem cells in many diseases, and chemotherapy resistance is not good news for any kind of cancer. The researchers studied the protein expression in pancreatic tumors surgically removed from 269 patients.

In their results, published in the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*, they reported that 90 of the 269 specimens were ALDH-positive. “Patients with tumors that contained cells expressing ALDH ultimately did worse — they lived about 4 months less than patients with ALDH-negative tumors,” Matsui said.

Matsui and his team then wanted to know if ALDH-expressing cells were more tumorigenic, or likely to become tumors, and why patients with ALDH-positive tumors lived for a shorter amount of time.

When tumors undergo metastasis, the cancer spreads throughout the body, decreasing chances for treatment and as a result decreasing chances of survival.

“The cells that are ALDH positive migrate very well, so we think that having an excess number of stem cells around increases the chance of metastasis,” Matsui said. “The logic is that we use this marker, and then see that the patients die faster. And then we say to ourselves, ‘Why do they

die faster?’ and then see that the cells that are ALDH positive migrate very well, so we think that having an excess number of stem cells within tumors increases the chance of metastasis.”

Previous research had found a correlation between ALDH-expression and cancer stem cells in Hodgkin’s Disease, leukemia and multiple myeloma. “In other tumors, such as multiple myeloma, we found that ALDH also can identify the cancer stem cells, but we hadn’t yet related its expression to shorter survival,” Matsui said. “We thought that we could use this same marker in solid tumors, and decided to examine pancreatic cancer.”

In pancreatic cancer, the tumor forms a solid mass of cells.

“Here at Hopkins, there are a lot of pancreatic cancer patients and research, so it was easy to get patient material and pathologists to work with us, as opposed to using other solid-mass cancers such as breast, lung, or prostate cancers,” Matsui said.

The discovery that ALDH expression in tumor cells is linked to shorter survival time in pancreatic cancer patients is another step forward in cancer research. Matsui is one of several researchers who have previously identified some of the molecular pathways or targets behind tumor growth.

“The ultimate question is ‘How do you inhibit cancer stem cells?’” Matsui said. “Since cancer stem cells seem to be the cells that are ultimately responsible for tumor growth and metastasis, we hope that treatments that target them will lead to longer survival for patients.”

Currently at the medical campus, there are dozens of clinical trials involving these pathways, and finding the one behind ALDH expression seems to be the next question that needs answering.



COURTESY OF WWW.STANFORD.EDU

Certain portions of mutant DNA are highly specific to each tumor and can be tracked using simple sequencing techniques.

Doubts may linger over vaccine safety despite study retraction

LANCET, FROM B7

The panel also found that Wakefield was receiving money from individuals seeking litigation against manufacturers of the MMR vaccine, a severe conflict of interest that was not stated in the original study.

Furthermore, the panel even found that Wakefield had paid children at his son’s birthday party about \$8 U.S. for blood samples used in his research. At a later conference, Wakefield even jokingly referred to this practice, commenting that he would even consider obtaining such samples under similar conditions in the future.

“There are multiple flaws in each aspect of this study,” said Neal Halsey, the Director of the Institute for Vaccine Safety at the School of Public Health. “In addition to the ethical issues, the scientific methods were flawed.”

But the most profound impact of Wakefield’s original paper is not in the field of bioethics, but in the offices of pediatricians and the minds of worried parents.

Since the publication of the study, vaccination rates have dropped significantly, to the point where the number of cases of once-eradicated diseases has reached a level not seen since many decades ago. Many scientists associate the paper and the resulting media hype with the decrease in MMR vaccinations.

In order for a disease to be effectively eliminated by a vaccine, vaccination rates must reach 95 percent. Before the Wakefield study was published, a slim 0.77 percent of the population in the UK was not vaccinated against measles. However, after the study was published, the rate of vaccination has since dropped to 83 percent for the first administration. This rate dropped even further to 78 percent for the second dose of the vaccine, which is given in a series of three doses.

In the U.S., the number of measles cases jumped to 64 cases in the span of four months in 2008, when that had been the yearly average for the past decade. Fur-

thermore, 63 of the 64 cases had either a lack of vaccination or unknown vaccination status.

A recent survey indicated that while 90 percent of parents thought vaccines were a good way of preventing illnesses in their children, more than half said they had doubts about their safety, and more than a tenth had gone as far as refusing at least one vaccine that a doctor had recommended for their child.

The retraction should provide a boost to the argument that disproves

any link between vaccines and autism and help to improve their safety record. “Based on multiple studies, the mainstream scientific consensus is against a link between MMR and ASDs,” said Saad Omer, an assistant professor of global health at Emory University and formerly a faculty member of the Institute for Vaccine Safety at Hopkins.

However, it may be difficult to change the perception of vaccine safety, especially since the notion of MMR being a vaccine trigger has been perpetuated for so many years. “Those who strongly believe that vaccines cause harm are unlikely to be convinced by the retraction,” Omer said. “Perhaps some of the ‘fence-sitters’ will be impacted.”

“The retraction of this article should help improve the acceptance of this vaccine among the small percentage of parents who have had concerns and withheld vaccines from their children,” Halsey said.

While the original Wakefield paper was a significant setback to the public’s understanding of the causes of autism, new research is steadily making advances. “Although the precise cause or triggers of autism are unknown, multiple scientific studies have shown no causal link between vaccines and autism spectrum disorders,” Menon said.

“However, for some parents of children with autism, I don’t believe that their feelings will change until we have answers about what does cause autism — and that’s

something researchers across the country are working very hard to accomplish,” she said.

Additionally, the question of the validity of research will be much more of a focus for publishing organizations. “Even bad science can sometimes make its way into the medical literature,” Halsey said. “We need to work hard to help educate the general public about how we assess the safety of vaccines and drugs.”

The prestigious nature of the journal in which the study was published further emphasizes the need for increased scrutiny of scientific research, especially when it comes to the study of

safety issues. “This discussion reiterates the importance of conducting and publishing research which is peer reviewed and held to the highest scientific standards,” Menon said. “The repercussions of autism research have great public health implications.”

“We have learned to examine very carefully new claims about medical breakthroughs and to demand that the best scientific methods be used to test the validity of claims,” Halsey said, “whether they be positive breakthroughs regarding treatment of disease, prevention of disease, or adverse events possibly associated with vaccines or drugs.”

Researchers investigate movement-control regions of brain

By **JEFFREY SIEGEL**
Staff Writer

Researchers at Hopkins have been investigating how the brain signals the body to move. Katherine Scangos and Veit Stuphorn, two co-researchers, have recently found that a specific region of the brain may transmit motivational signals — that is, deciding whether or not to move.

The supplementary motor area (SMA) is a region of the brain that is known to be associated with starting or stopping a movement. Studies have shown that damage to the SMA is linked to alien hand syndrome, a condition involving spontaneous, uncontrolled motion that interferes with normal behavior. Based on these and other studies, it was hypothesized that the SMA is directly responsible for starting and stopping a purposeful action.

Scangos and Stuphorn decided to test this hypothesis on rhesus monkeys, a primate species. First, they took MRIs of the two monkeys they intended to use for their trials so that they could identify the SMA.

During the trials, each monkey was seated in a chair facing a video screen, with a handlebar that controlled a cursor on the screen in front of them. A box appeared in the middle of the screen, and the monkey had to move the cursor to the box. A short time later, a new box appeared and the first box disap-



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Areas once thought to initiate and stop movement may actually play a different role.

peared — if the monkey moved the cursor to the box, it got a reward.

In some trials, the original box reappeared after a short delay, and the reward would be given only if the monkey stopped his motion in time and moved the cursor back to the original box, before it had reached the new box. In others, the original box would be colored green or yellow, representing a higher or lower reward. Eye and arm movements and neural activity were tracked during the trials.

Scangos and Stuphorn found

that the SMA is not directly responsible for canceling a purposeful action. If the SMA were responsible for starting or stopping a purposeful action, the activity of neurons in the SMA would be different when the monkey started to move the cursor away from the center and when the monkey canceled that movement.

Furthermore, this change in activity should be apparent before the monkey has physically reacted to the reappearance of the original box. However, the data showed that most of the

neurons in and around the SMA did not show any difference in activity in trials where the original box reappeared and trials where it did not. Moreover, of those SMA cells that did show an activity difference, the change occurred after the monkey had already begun to move the cursor back to the center.

On the other hand, some neurons did show higher activity when the monkey canceled its movement away from the center. While the SMA is not the direct cause for this motion, it may have a role further on in the process — perhaps sustaining the blockage of the original, canceled signal or indicating that conflicting signals have been sent to the muscles.

Scangos and Stuphorn also discovered how the monkey canceled its movement. Muscles in the body are often paired, with one muscle able to counteract its partner. Thus, the monkey could have initially sent a signal to one muscle on seeing the box in its new location, then sent a signal to another muscle to get it to counteract the first on seeing the original box reappear.

However, this did not happen — instead, the original muscle is simply relaxed before it has moved enough.

Though the exact mechanisms of voluntary movement control are not entirely clear, this study is an important finding in motor control research.

Hopkins investigates vaccine alternatives

By JULIA ZHANG
Staff Writer

The recent H1N1 pandemic was unprecedented in that scientists were able to quickly identify and track its spread. Now the question is how to respond to and prepare for future influenza pandemics. Besides vaccinations, what other countermeasures can we devise?

JP Leider, a doctoral student at the Hopkins School of Public Health and researcher at the Berman Institute of Bioethics, believes that passive immunotherapy could be the answer.

Leider, along with his colleagues Patricia Bruner and Paul Ness, are looking into the potential of passive immunotherapy, in which antibodies are created under laboratory

conditions and injected into a person's system to stimulate their immune system and create immunity to a disease. This is unlike active immunotherapy, where a person's immune system may be stimulated to respond to a vaccine.

One main area of passive immunotherapy is the use of monoclonal antibodies (MoAbs). Already widely used in cancer treatment, MoAbs are produced to bind to a target disease cell, triggering the eventual destruction of that cell. In the case of an influenza outbreak, MoAbs could become an alternative to taking traditional antiviral medications like Tamiflu.

"Depending on what research shows, this could conceivably be a new option for individuals experiencing a

severe response, or who are not responding to antivirals," Leider said. "However, until production costs are reduced, this would be an incredibly expensive option — one likely that would be problematic to implement on a large scale."

"If we are talking about strain-specific MoAbs, there may be significant production time associated with mass production. And unless the MoAb is a universal one, there is always some chance that the MoAb might not be effective against breakaway mutations of the pandemic strain," Leider said.

Luckily, technological progress is being made steadily in the area of MoAb creation. Their specificity to the antigens they target has improved. "Researchers are finding new MoAbs against various infectious agents, diseases, and even cancers every day," Leider noted. MoAb's reactivity in humans is decreasing, leading to lessened side effects. Production costs are also being lowered.

A second large topic in passive immunotherapy is the use of convalescent transfusion. In this method, blood from a person who has already recovered from a disease is transferred to another person who has not yet been affected by the disease. The second person then has the necessary antibodies in his or her blood to readily fight off the disease if infected afterwards.

"Should research show convalescent transfusion is a safe, efficacious treatment for influenza, a novel, widely available countermeasure might be available for a fight against a future pandemic. Such a countermeasure could prove hugely useful, especially in a several scenarios where the pandemic strain is resistant to available antivirals," Leider said.

Even if clinical safety of convalescent transfusion were guaranteed, there would still be many other issues including regulation, liability matters, and ethical questions. "Success of a widespread convalescent transfusion campaign would depend on local communities — individuals would have to donate their time and of themselves to try and help their sick neighbors," Leider said.

"We would need to operate in a way that maintains the integrity and safety of donors and transfusion centers. This potentially would give local or state public health agencies huge control over an important medical countermeasure."

Future influenza pandemics could potentially be much more threatening than past ones. It is crucial to start planning now, and passive immunity is a promising area of research.

"We may have the luxury of some time before the next serious pandemic (or pandemic wave), but maybe not," Leider said. "For something like [passive immunity] to work on a large scale, planning would need to occur beforehand. It's difficult to add one more thing to the plate, but we ought to do it."



COURTESY OF WWW.WHALE-SHARK.ORG

The newly discovered species lived on plankton suspended in sea water, much like whale sharks and baleen whales do today.

Prehistoric whale shark discovered

By IAN YU
Staff Writer

By connecting newly discovered fossils with overlooked specimens already existing in museums, a team of British and American researchers have discovered a new species of giant, filter-feeding fish that was the prehistoric equivalent of baleen whales and whale sharks.

Their findings, published in *Science*, have made a step towards resolving the conspicuous absence of suspension feeders in large segments of the fossil record from the Mesozoic era (composed of the three geologic periods during which the dinosaurs lived).

Marine suspension feeders are typically large in size and feed upon plankton suspended in the ocean, with certain modern-day species of baleen whales and cartilaginous fish (sharks and rays) possessing these adaptations to take advantage of this ecological niche.

It was previously believed that these large filter feeders had been absent for much of the age of the dinosaurs, appearing during a small segment of the Mesozoic era before mysteriously disappearing for the remainder of the era.

"There was certainly an apparent pattern — the lack of big filter feeders — but no attempt to unpack why that might be the case," writes Matt Friedman, of the Department of Earth Sciences at the University of Oxford, in an email with *The News-Letter*. "These kinds of 'why' questions are always hard (if not impossible) to test in historical science (where we can't run the experiment again, so to speak)."

Through a chance encounter, Friedman stumbled upon the first rediscovery that spawned his study on Mesozoic large filter feeders. "I was doing some work at the Rocky Mountain Dinosaur Resource Center, looking at a completely different set of fossil fishes," he said. "One of the

workers there — who later became a co-author on the study — said that they were working on a very strange (and big!) fossil fish that they couldn't really make sense of, and asked me if I would be interested in taking a look at it."

"After some time examining this specimen, I 'connected the dots,' and came to the realization that this was a giant suspension feeder," he said.

Friedman also mentions that the specimen belonged to a group of fishes that had already been discovered, but it was assumed that the group had lost out to evolution, existing for only a small span of geologic time. This specimen challenges that previous perception of the Mesozoic giant suspension feeders and their geologic timeline.

"This new specimen was about 70 million years younger than those other fossils, indicating that this group was around for a very long time indeed," Friedman said.

After this initial discovery, Friedman moved on to search for additional fossils that may have been thought of as insignificant by previous paleontologists, but can potentially fill the gap. "After figuring out that these fishes should be found in rocks whose age was intermediate between this new find and the examples we already knew about, I went back to museum collections to see if there were any other fossils that might have been overlooked," he said.

Friedman and his collaborators' work shows that museums are not static, with re-discoveries among existing collections highly uncommon. "Museums are active research environments, and new discoveries are made within their collections all the time,"

Friedman said.

"This is especially the case in fields like paleontology, where our interpretation and identification of fossils evolves as we begin to learn more and more about extinct groups and how they are related to each other and living animals."

Altogether, the fossils collected and examined by Friedman and his collaborators place large suspension feeders in the seas of the Jurassic and Cretaceous periods, greatly expanding the span of geologic time occupied by

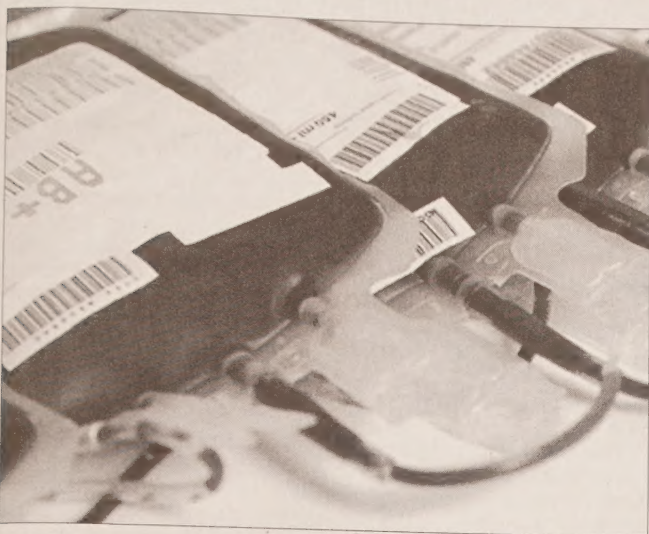
these creatures. These creatures' existence may also be connected to the evolution of their phytoplankton prey, but Friedman says this connection is more difficult to trace.

"Most of the dominant modern phytoplankton

groups really rose to ecological prominence during the Mesozoic," Friedman said. "There were pre-Mesozoic phytoplankton (they go back billions of years), but many of these fossils are difficult to place in an evolutionary tree."

In addition, there is still additional work to be done on the evolutionary tract of filter feeders. "We certainly know of small filter-feeding vertebrates way back in the Devonian (ca. 400 million years ago), so this is an ancient feeding strategy. I suspect there are many extinct animals that probably did this for a living, and we've either failed to recognize their fossils, or simply not been able to come to grips with their feeding ecology," Friedman said.

"Regarding our giant filter-feeding fishes, we've got some clues about their early evolutionary history that we are working on right now."



COURTESY OF WWW.PHARMALABEL.NL

Blood transfusions could help treat patients by giving them disease-specific antibodies.

"Tree of Life" holds promise for feeding malnourished

MORINGA, FROM B7

relative advantage of using *M. oleifera*, compatibility with cultural norms, complexity in using it, observability and trialability.

In this study, these researchers outlined the existing evidence for the five attributes that make the *M. oleifera* attractive and applicable for international agencies and other groups working within undernourished populations to include and promote as a part of their overall projects.

Use of the *M. oleifera* is a relatively advantageous endeavor because it can be produced locally, providing individual households and agricultural societies with a sustainable food source and possible microfinance opportunities. The *M. oleifera* costs little to plant, and seeds are often donated by aid agencies so that individuals can begin to grow these nutritious plants independently.

Likewise, the *M. oleifera* is compatible with the culture of many undernourished populations because the use of wild plants as foods and medicines is a common practice among any society whose medicine is governed by traditional healing systems. Furthermore, green leafy plants, such as the *M. oleifera*, are a common food source in the traditional dishes of undernourished populations, making it easy to integrate into common practice.

As with any medicine, the less complicated the method of delivery and the regimen required in consuming the medicine, the more popular and widespread its use will be. The *M. oleifera* is relatively easy to obtain, grow, and use on a regular basis. It does not require rigid growing conditions, including temperature, elevation, and soil type.

"Subsistence farmers in many regions of the tropics could incorporate Moringa into their plantings for personal/family use. It is extremely fast growing, hardy, and drought resistant, and the leaves of the tree can be repeatedly harvested without killing the plant," Fahey said.

Most importantly, the plant's rapid growth and unique outward appearance is what innovators and early adopters find most attractive and appealing. As more and more anecdotes are being spread amongst nutritionists, the efficacy of the *M. oleifera* is

becoming more well-known. In terms of trialability, researchers and nutritionists throughout the globe have experimented with the *M. oleifera* and its effects as a nutrition source.

From what has been discovered concerning the *M. oleifera*'s effects on humans, this plant has been used since ancient times for skin diseases, diabetes, cancer treatment, and water purification. Unfortunately, as technology has developed, various misconceptions and practices have also developed in the field of pharmacology.

"One of the problems with the current Western love affair with dietary supplements is that just about anybody can put just about anything in a pill, and make just about any claim they want, and find a market for their product," Fahey said. "This is now happening with Moringa, and in my view it may be a very bad thing. Claims being made about it (as well as many other plant products and extracts), would convince a naïve consumer that it will cure just about everything that ails you."

"Although temporarily the supplement market provides a outlet for Moringa growers in the developing world, it diverts attention from — and perhaps diverts resources away from — the fact that the greatest value of this tree is not as an alternative source of multivitamins for rich westerners," Fahey said, "but as an alternative source of highly digestible protein for infants, children, and adults in areas where malnutrition is rampant, arable land is hard to find, and people don't have the income to purchase food grown elsewhere."

The *M. oleifera* has wide potential for use amongst human populations, especially in countries burdened by malnutrition. Wider implementation of this plant may provide a substantial benefit to the achievement of providing aid to underdeveloped countries, such as the fulfillment of the Millennium Development Goal to halve the proportion of people who suffer from hunger by the year 2015.

As more research findings are being published regarding the *M. oleifera*, its popularity and implementation will provide populations greatly in need with a sustainable and safe way to obtain the nutrients they need to stay healthy.

Science in the News

NASA discovers water in moon's craters

It's not cheese, but the next best thing: An Indian lunar orbiter called Chandrayaan-1 has found that there is at least 600 million tons of water ice located at the north pole of the moon.

The ice exists in 40 shadowed craters, the largest of which is nine miles across.

The ice was detected by bouncing a radar signal off the moon's surface and analyzing the radio waves that came back.

NASA's LCROSS mission last November, where a probe was deliberately crashed into the moon's south pole to send up a plume of debris, also found evidence of water.

Scientists also believe that water exists beyond the frozen poles, where it has been absorbed in the top layers of sediment even in the sunniest regions of the moon.

Scientists develop biocompatible power generators

Scientists at Princeton have been working on ways to harvest energy from the human's body's natural movements — from breathing to walking — to power personal medical devices or even a cell phone.

The devices rely on piezoelectric crystals, which generate electricity when bent, for example by the expansion of the ribcage during breathing or the flexing of a foot during walking.

The researchers, led by Michael McAlphine, of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, were able to create biocompatible prototype generators in two steps.

First, they deposited the crystals on a rigid structure at the extremely high temperatures required for their proper formation. Then, at a cooler temperature, they transferred the crystals to a flexible, biocompatible polymer.

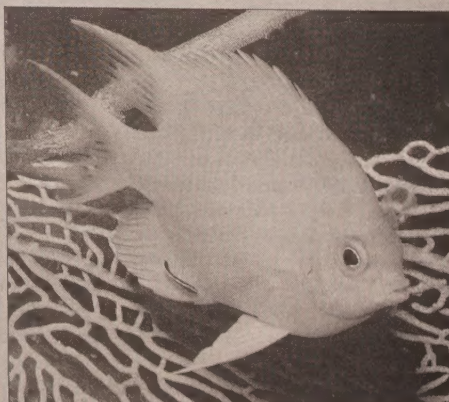
These crystals can convert mechanical energy to electrical

energy with about 80 percent efficiency. In the future, the generators could potentially be implanted into the body, providing power for pacemakers, or for troops or even spies working in isolated areas.

Damselfish recognize mates, rivals with UV light

A species of damselfish, inhabitants of tropical coral reefs, identify rivals or mates of the same species using facial markings that can only be seen under ultraviolet (UV) light.

Importantly, the damselfish's main predators can't see UV light, allowing the damselfish to signal each other beneath their predators' radar. Ambon dam-



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Damselfish recognize each other using UV facial markings.

selfish can identify other Ambon damselfish based only on facial marking patterns. Researchers found that, under normal conditions, competitive male damselfish only attacked other males of their own species.

If the UV light was blocked, the males attacked at random, and could no longer distinguish between their own and another similar-looking species of damselfish.

— All briefs by Ann Wang



DANIEL LITWIN/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
Freshman midfielder Katie Duffy had two assists and one draw control to win against Stony Brook on Wednesday afternoon.

W. lax drops two well-played games

By RYAN KAHN
Staff Writer

Hopkins kicked off two games this past week with two tough, hard-fought losses to two top-ranked opponents, seventh-ranked Georgetown and ninth-ranked Princeton. Even though the Jays are down in the season 1-2, the players are confident their hard-nosed play will translate to more wins down the road.

After a multi-goal performance against Princeton, Rachel Ballatori said, "I mean, it's tough to lose, but making it to overtime against the ninth-ranked team in the nation says something for only our third game of the season."

In what looked to be a promising start for Hopkins women's lacrosse on Feb. 24 soon diminished, as seventh-ranked Georgetown seemed to get stronger as the game progressed. The Jays got off to an early 1-0 lead, after sophomore Candace Rossi scored a quick goal within the first minute.

However, the Hoyas were quick to respond with two goals of their own within a two-minute span, coming from Molly Ford and Ashby Kaestner. The game slowed down for a bit after Georgetown took a 2-1 lead, as the next goal came from Hopkins' senior Paige Ibello, tying the game at 2-all, seven minutes in. Ibello led the Jays with three goals on just three shots in the game, it was Ibello's fifth career hat trick.

Track performs for CC titles

TRACK, FROM B12
The 4x800-meter relay team of Joe Sachetti, Ben Press, Mickey Borsellino and Elliot Wehner (*The News-Letter's* marketing manager) got a third-place finish, with a team time of 8:07.03.

Wehner competed in the 800-meter run, coming in second place, clocking in at 1:55.84. In the 400-meter dash, Mack Gordan (fifth), Pierre Hage (seventh) and Christ Tait (eighth) placed for Hopkins. Sophomore Jacob Kramer got the bronze in the 55-meter hurdles, with a time of 8.24.

Overall, the Hopkins men's track team finished in fifth place out of nine schools. Dickinson (129), Haverford (107.5) and Muhlenberg (106) won the top three places, with Dickinson winning its first team title. Ursinus picked up fourth place with 105.5 points.

"We all have some great goals for outdoor and can't wait to give the conference a run for its money," Mikkilineni said.

"I know we can win the conference title if we just take those extra steps to be strong, healthy and at the peak of our performance come that meet day. Regardless, we have a lot more fun at meets than other teams and that's what matters!"

"Although it would have been incredible to win, we had a terrific season and I'm so proud of how well the team did," Paulsen said.

Both teams return to action on Friday, March 5, competing in the Columbia Last Chance Invitational, at the NYC Armory in the Washington Heights section of Manhattan, NY. This event takes place a week before NCAA championships.

It was not long before Georgetown regained the lead with back-to-back goals from Erin Lovett, plus a free position goal from Jacqueline Giles, putting the Hoyas ahead by three. Seniors Angela Hughes and Ibello fought back before the half with goals, but the Hoya's strong attack put them ahead 7-4 going into the half.

Nearly two minutes into the second half, Paige Ibello completed her hat trick with what was perhaps the goal of the game. Proceeding to dizzy the defenders, Ibello faked a shot, then dodged left and right, while firing a shot with incredible accuracy inside the left post. Unfortunately, Hopkins' momentum quickly faded with a failed clearing attempt. Jordyn Kirr scored off of the failed attempt, jump-starting a 3-0 Hoya run.

Hopkins put on a 2-0 run of their own, after Hughes scored on a right alley dodge and sophomore Colleen McCaffree scored on an inside post shot within the crease. Junior Briana Cronin of Arlington, Va. also put on some acrobatic moves of her own, scoring the Jay's final two goals. But the Hoyas never let down on the attack, ending the game with a 5-2 run, finishing the game with a 15-9 victory.

On a positive note three Hopkins players finished with a multi-goal performance: Paige Ibello scored three, while Angela Hughes and Briana Cronin both netted two apiece. Molly Ford led the Hoyas with a whopping six points and their goalie, Caitlin Formby, finished with 10 saves in the win.

After a tough loss on Wednesday, the Jays looked to respond with a victory against another tough opponent, Princeton. Hopkins started off slowly in their home opener on Saturday, but quickly regained form, sending the game into overtime.

Princeton jumped to an early 2-0 lead, with back-to-back goals from Kristin Morrison. One of these goals was a dashing behind-the-back shot, just seven minutes into the game. Junior Brooke Foussadier and Sophomore Rachel Ballatori then combined their efforts, to bring the game within one at 3-2. But the Tigers' Charlotte Davis pushed the Princeton lead to two, with a one-on-one goal.

With time winding down in the first half, Florida native Camille Kramer cut the deficit back down to one with a free position goal. This started a 5-0 Hopkins run, which spanned into the second half. Rossi tied the game on a right alley dodge for her first, on a successful day. The game went into halftime tied, after freshman goalie Cosette Larash, like a brick wall, denied a hard shot from Morrison.

Hopkins held nothing back coming out of the gates, scoring three points in a span of just 68 seconds. This put the Jays ahead 7-4. Ibello, McCaffrey and Rossi all combined on the goals, with a nice assist from freshman Monica Fischer.

The Tigers then got their own run going, scoring a pair of goals within 30 seconds. With goals from Jaci Gassaway and Cassie Pyle, Princeton cut the deficit down to one. Princeton then scored two more, after Rossi completed her fifth career hat trick.

Ballatori faked high then shot low, scoring her second of the day, giving the Jays a one-goal lead. But Princeton made Hopkins pay after a failed clearing attempt, tying it up again at 9-9. With the game down to the wire, Princeton's Lizzy Drumm was awarded a free position shot. Larash came up big once again, with a clutch save sending the game into overtime.

With a game going back-and-forth as much as this one, there was no better final stage than overtime. Unfortunately, Hopkins' effort in overtime just was not enough, as Morrison scored her fourth goal of the day, giving Princeton a well-fought victory, 10-9.

With a couple of tough losses, the Jays will look to bounce back on March 3 against visiting Stony Brook.

Women's tennis faces tough competition at ITA Indoor

W. TENNIS, FROM B12
Courtney Chin and Laura Chen then finished up doubles play with an 8-6 win at first over Krishnan and Warren.

In singles action, Cze-Ja Tam extended the Tartans' lead to four with a 6-2, 6-2 win at fourth over Several.

Chin defeated Bhamidipati 6-2, 6-2 at second and Chen won 6-2, 6-2 against Warren at first.

Elamir put Hopkins on the board with a 6-2, 6-1 win at fourth over Chui.

When asked about the win, Elamir said, "This was a positive point from the weekend."

"It felt really good to win a match against a really good player who normally plays four of five for them, especially since our team lost."

"Although beating the girl from Carnegie made me feel better after losing a match earlier that day, it has only encouraged me to work harder to prepare for the rest of season," Elamir said.

Wu kept the trend going with a 6-0, 6-1 win at sixth over Alisa Liebowitz. Hart defeated Berlinghof to close out the match winning 5-7, 6-3 and 1-0 (12-10).

Although the women players dropped all of the sets last weekend, they are taking a positive outlook from the tournament.

"This weekend was a really good trial run for Nationals and let us know what we would be up against," Elamir said.

"We expect to do better in the spring as the weather gets better to allow more practice time."

Hopkins returns to action against Division II Flagler at 3 p.m. on March 16 in St. Augustine, Fla.

Taking a closer look at curling

By JACK COOPER
For *The News-Letter*

Competing in the Olympics is every athlete's dream. Sadly, for most of us, even the thought of flying high next to Shaun White, skating at blistering speeds with Apolo Anton Ohno, or shredding the mountainside with Lindsey Vonn or Bode Miller passes as only a momentary fantasy.

While the chances of us ever making an Olympic team for one of these extreme sports are comparable to winning the lottery, there is one sport that we common men and women may yet have hope left to play: curling.

Many know the sport as "shuffleboard on ice, without the old people" or "a frozen combination of bowling and billiards," among many other names. Actually, curling has been in existence since the early 16th century, where it is thought to have been invented by the Scottish. Curling clubs were first started in the early 18th century, including the Kilsyth Curling Club in Scotland, which is still up and running today.

While curling has been around in many parts of Europe and even Canada since then, the sport is relatively new to the U.S. The first curling club was founded in 1830 at Orchard Lake, Mich.

Yet while curling has been around for the better part of two centuries, longer than our nationally-beloved basketball (invented in 1891) and about as long as American football (mid-19th century), many people have either never heard of it or have seen it without a true concept of the rules.

Curling teams are made up of four players, each throwing two rocks per end, the curling equivalent of a baseball inning. There are 10 ends in a standard game of curling, and also, like in baseball, extra ends are often played if the score is tied after 10.

The two teams alternate shots every end, starting at the opposite end of the ice from the "house," a circular target whose center is known as "the button." The captain, called the "skip," rolls the last two stones of every end and the assistant captain, or "vice-skip," rolls the two prior to the skip.

The two players not including the skip that are not shooting assume the role of sweepers for each rock, and it is their job to smooth the ice and speed up or help the rock curl when necessary. These are the players we have all seen on TV brushing frantically only inches from touching the rock as they slide down the ice, while the skip intently screams instructions.

The last stone of the end is called "the hammer" and is a tremendous advantage to which ever team holds it, as only one team can score per end (unless no stones are in the house at the



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The 2010 Vancouver Olympics had a significant effect on the interest of curling in America.

completion of an end, referred to as a "blank end," in which no team scores). The scoring system awards only the team with the closest stone to the center one point, called "shot rock," as well as an additional point for each rock closer to the button than the closest stone of the opposing team.

This makes the hammer a crucial stone, as the team that holds it, regardless of the previous 15 stones thrown that end, typically has a chance to put it closest and guarantee a score.

A scoring round of three for a team is considered very good, while a four, though rare, is incredible. Once the team with the hammer scores, it switches to the other team and the game continues.

Sounds simple: Just line up your shot, don't throw it too hard or too soft, and try to get it closest to the center, right?

Obviously wrong, or the sport would not be considered an Olympic-quality competition. There is a tremendous amount of strategy behind every end, as well as the match as a whole.

When a team has the hammer in an end, their objective is to score at least two points, as it is fairly common that the team with it will at least score one. The team that rolls first will try to simultaneously put and keep stones in the house, while protecting them with guards, rocks that are purposely placed out of the target area so as to force the opposing team to shoot around them.

More strategies include "freezing," in which a team purposefully throws a stone to stop directly above the other team's rock and be automatically closer to the button, and "drawing," when a team curls a stone around others, including guards, in an attempt to get it closer to the center.

The universal goal of every team is therefore to be tied or leading with the hammer going into the 10th and final end, as their skip will have a chance to

win the match for them on the last shot.

There has been a recent surge of interest in this sport during the Olympics, a phenomenon that personally caught me by surprise. I must admit, though I had seen a match before, I was for the most part unaware of the rules and strategies of the sport before these Olympics.

I turned on my T.V. one evening to find a women's match between the U.S. and Denmark, and before choosing to turn the channel, I decided I would watch a few throws. I was hooked. I was surprised at how hard it was to look away from such a seemingly simple and boring sport.

I found myself watching the rest of the match, as well as many more, including all of the medal matches on both the men's and women's sides.

Sweden rallied to beat the home-favorite Canada to win the women's gold, while the Canadian men's team avenged their women's loss by defeating Norway for the gold.

But it wasn't just me who was hooked. I began to notice Facebook updates from many of my friends both here at college and back home that reflected my unanticipated interest in this relatively unknown sport. Now it seems like I can't go anywhere without hearing about curling.

I was recently out to dinner at a restaurant just off campus and when I heard several familiar curling terms, I turned to find several other students discussing it. What I was mostly picking up on was not just a general interest in the sport but a wide-spreading desire to play it, with most people also believing that they could be good at it.

While we may not be able to become Olympic-caliber curlers, there is one curling club near Baltimore for those who want to test their skills and prove themselves: The Potomac Curling Club in Laurel, Md., approximately 45 minutes away from campus.

W. fencing goes to Jersey, emerges victorious

Titles for Chinn, Trumbull at EFWC Championships

By GERY BROWNHOLTZ
Staff Writer

Just a week after the Hopkins women's fencing team took first overall at the Eastern Women's Fencing Conference Championships in the team event, the Jays traveled to Hoboken, NJ, to participate in the EWFC singles championships.

Here, two Hopkins fencers, sophomores Lauren Chinn and Marion Trumbull, won individual championships, with another five Jays taking home All-EWFC honors.

The Jays shined in the Foil event, as Trumbull took first place overall, winning the EWFC title in the event. She was also named first team All-EWFC, adding further honors to an excellent season.

Losing only one bout on the day and finishing 16-1, Trumbull became the second Jay in a row to win the EWFC Foil championship, as 2009 saw current sophomore Jen Hession win first place.

The remaining Jays in the Foil event also fared quite well, as sophomore Colleen Stone went 13-4 and finished in fourth place, also earning first-team All-EWFC honors in the process.

Freshman Diane Duros went 6-11 on the day, finishing in 12th.

In the Epee event, sophomore Lauren Chinn improved her stellar season record to 66-12, going 15-1 and earning first place in the Epee and first-team All-EWFC honors.

Other Jays in the Epee included junior Corrine Warren, who finished eighth with a 9-7 record and second team All-EWFC honors, and sophomore Chelsea James, who finished in 13th with a 5-11 record.

Finally, in the Sabre event, the Jays did not have a first-place fencer, but performed admirably nonetheless. First team All-EWFC fencer and junior co-captain Mary Vitale finished 13-4, earning

third place. This brought her record to 81-38 on the season. Sophomore Amy Conwell also competed in the Sabre, finishing in 14th with a 4-13 record.

The outstanding team and individual performances in the EWFC Championships further cemented the Jays' status as a fencing powerhouse in Division III. After the team conference championship and two individual conference titles, the Jays move on to the National Intercollegiate Women's Fencing Association Championships, where they have historically performed quite well.

Last year saw the Jays finish second in the tournament, also earning the Army trophy as the best team in Division III. They look to repeat and expand upon this success and bring home a national title. The NIWFA Championships take place March 6, after which the team may move on to the NCAA Regionals on March 13.

SPORTS

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK
CANDACE ROSSI - WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Rossi scorching the net this year

By MARCEL DUARTE
Sports Editor

Last year, Hopkins women's lacrosse did not have the season they had hoped for. But 2010 seems a bit more promising for the Blue Jays, largely in part because last year's rookies, such as Candace Rossi, have a season under their belt and are determined win.

Sophomore attacker Candace Rossi has been offensive threat since the moment she started playing lacrosse. In high school, she was a three time All-American and scored an astonishing 82 goals her senior season. She was a three letter varsity athlete, also playing basketball and running cross country.

Rossi's superior lacrosse skills landed her a spot on the Blue Jays roster. She choose Hopkins because of the nationally recognized lacrosse name, the hope of playing as a freshman and the prestigious academic excellence of the school.

All of her skills transferred over to Hopkins, where last year she led the team in goals (29) and points (33) as a freshman. She also had two back-to-back five goal games and another hat trick later on in the season.

Recognized by the team as Offensive Athlete of the Year in 2009, the Jays rely on Rossi to be a key part of their attack — and she has not disappointed.

After only four games, Rossi has netted two hat tricks. She is at eight goals this so far this season; at the same time last year, she was at seven. Plus, she has now been selected as *The News-Letter* Athlete of the Week. She plans on having another outstanding offensive year.

VITAL STATISTICS

Year: Sophomore

Major: Political Science

Hopkins Highlights: Recognized as 2009 Blue Jay Offensive Player of the Year. Led the team in goals (29) and points (33) as a freshman.



DANIEL LITWIN/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

* Rossi had a tremendous last season and is continuing to improve this season.

Many teams wish they had an aggressive offensive force like Rossi on their squad. Her level of play is often far too much for the opposition to handle.

But what makes her so good? Besides her aggressive, must-score mentality and obvious athletic ability, she does not hesitate to pass the ball around and get the team involved.

Rossi considers herself a "dodging machine," referring to the way she makes quick cuts to elude the opposition's defense. She does not look to improve her individual performance first, but rather the team's performance.

"Numbers can change, it's not about the personal stats but about the team stats," Rossi said. "I just want to contribute to the team anyway I can to make the team goals possible."

Off the field, Rossi excels in the classroom as a Political Science major and Business and Applied Math minor. She takes higher level math courses that she manages to balance well with her already demanding schedule.

Rossi recognized that she is a young player that can and will always learn from her lacrosse expe-

riences with her team by her side. "My teammates mean the world to me," Rossi said. "The older girls have taught me everything about being a Blue Jay and the coaching staff has really made me feel at home."

Rossi envisions her team having a strong season and going all the way to the NCAA tournament this year.

"Our team was really young last year and gained a lot of truly valuable experience during the '09 season that will greatly help us this year," Rossi said. "Were looking to have a winning season, make it into the tournament, and go far like I know we can."

The season is still young as the Jays have just wrapped up their fourth game to move to 2-2, almost winning their third game in a dramatic overtime loss to Princeton, 10-9.

It was a hat trick day for Rossi, one she plans on having much more often this season, but Hopkins just came up an inch short. However, with quality players on the squad like Candace Rossi, hopes are high for the Jays to turn it around and have a solid season this year.

Baseball ready to begin the season

By AMY KLIVANS
Staff Writer

With the first three games of their season postponed or canceled due to unplayable field conditions, the Blue Jays' pre-season ranking of 30th in the nation has yet to be tested.

Already favored to win the Centennial Conference Championships for the fourth consecutive year, the team has high expectations for this year. Returning 26 players, the Jays boast a strong depth chart, as well as experience in every position.

Though losing hotshot third baseman Todd Emr, the Centennial Conference Player of the Year in 2009, the Jays hope to replace him with another powerhouse, leftfielder Jesse Sikorski. With a .782 slugging percentage and 45 RBIs in 2009, the junior is driving for even better stats this season.

"As a big slugger on this team, my job is to hit for power and drive runners in," Sikorski said. "I've worked real hard on honing these skills this off-season and if I can do this consistently this year, it will be another weapon that our team can use."

The delay has also hampered the Jays' pre-season training, as they have been unable to practice on the field due to the weather.

"The snow has really delayed our progress this preseason," said senior shortstop Lee Bolyard. "We haven't been able to get out on our field and have a real practice, so we have had to make the most of the situation by working hard indoors in the gym and the batting cages."

The Jays had a respectable 26-18 season last year, though compared with the 2008 season, where Hopkins went 42-8 and placed second in the nation, this was something of a letdown.

The Most Outstanding Player from that season, Chez Angeloni, is currently in the Red Sox organization, pitching for the Gulf Coast League Red Sox last season.

He was even promoted to pitch in short-season A ball, with the Lowell Spinners. He is only one of twelve Hopkins players to have gone pro; the 23-year-old right-handed pitcher has posted a 93 mph fastball.

This year the Jays hope to

return to the National Championship game, a determination shared by Sikorski, "Our only goal this year is to win the National Championship, anything else will be considered a disappointment".

With a stronger bullpen this season and experience under their belts, the Jays pitchers hope to fare better than they did last season. Coach Babb will rely on senior lefty Greg Harbeck, thrusting the reliever into a starting role.

Hopkins graduated its five predominant starters, making Harbeck the most experienced pitcher on the Jays' roster, with 22 innings pitched and a 2.78 ERA last season.

"The team has the depth to get through tough schedules," said Redshirt junior Tim Rappazzo. "We have a lot of good pitchers who have been working hard and will eat up all the innings."

Graduate student Brian Youchak is expected to be an-

other leader on this team, making the move from right field to second base.

Having played infield in high school, Youchak made the move to outfield following his arrival at Hopkins. However, with the position open with the graduation of Dan Merzel, Youchak made the move back to the infield.

The team will participate once again in the Russ-Matt Greater Phoe-

nix Invitational over Spring Break, where they will play twelve games over eight days.

Featuring three double-headers, Hopkins faces an arduous schedule, which culminates on the last two days with playing third-ranked Eastern Connecticut State and twelfth-ranked Southern Maine.

This Friday, assuming the weather allows, Hopkins will have its season opener, and finally be able to display the talent and athleticism that has honed this pre-season.

Spring Sports Preview



FILE PHOTO

The Hopkins baseball team looks to start strong this season on Friday against Catholic.

M. lacrosse defeats Siena, remains perfect at 3-0

By SHANT KESKINYAN
Staff Writer

The Hopkins men's lacrosse team headed into this weekend's game against visiting team Siena with an undefeated record and eight straight wins in the regular season, carrying over from last year.

The game was neck-and-neck all the way down to the last minute, in which Hopkins senior midfielder Michael Kimmel fired a shot past Siena's goalie on a man-up opportunity, to break a 7-7 tie and lift the fifth-ranked Jays to an 8-7 win. Hopkins' record remains perfect on the season.

The first quarter of play saw sloppy lacrosse plays from both teams. There were 18 turnovers combined, which was double the number of shots taken (nine).

After the first quarter ended with zeroes on the scoreboard for both teams, Siena broke the scoreless tie just 32 seconds into the second quarter. However, Hopkins was quick to respond, as junior Kyle Wharton answered with a goal of his own just 12 seconds later.

Senior Steven Boyle scored the first of his three goals shortly thereafter, giving Hopkins a 2-1 lead. Siena was able to score again, but Boyle was able to strike back once more, giving Hopkins a 3-2 lead heading into halftime.

The second half of play opened up with back-to-back goals by freshman John Ranagan and senior Tom Duerr, giving Hopkins a 5-2 lead early in the third quarter.

Ranagan's goal was well deserved, as he worked his way through Siena's defense and flung a shot past Siena's goalie while falling to the ground. Duerr's goal was the first of the

season for him and came on an extra-man opportunity.

However, Siena was not about to give up just yet. In the final nine minutes of the third quarter, three Siena players were able to score. Boyle was able to put another goal on the board for Hopkins, making the score 6-5, with the Jays ahead.

The fourth quarter of play opened up with Kimmel scoring the first of his two fourth-quarter goals, making the score 7-5, in favor of the Jays. Both Siena's and Hopkins' defenses were able to hold strong, and the score remained 7-5 for over seven minutes of play in the fourth quarter. However, the Saints were able to score two more goals and even up the game at 7-7.

The final quarter of the game remained tense and both teams had chances throughout the fourth to make plays. However, it was a mistake by Siena, on a failed clear that eventually led to Kimmel's game winner.

After forcing the failed clear, Wharton found Boyle in front of the goal all alone, where he was pushed from behind by Siena's goalie. The push led to a 30-second penalty against Siena, setting the stage for Kimmel's game-winning shot.

With 48 seconds remaining in the game, Boyle found Kimmel, who rifled a shot past Siena's goalie, to break the tie and give Hopkins the 8-7 win.

Boyle led the Jays with three goals and one assist, while Kimmel (two goals) and Wharton (one goal, one assist) also registered multi-point games. Senior Michael Gvozden posted nine saves in-goal for the Jays.

Next up for the Blue Jays are the Princeton Tigers, whom they will face on Saturday, March 6 at M&T Bank Stadium. Be there to support the team.

Club Squash forges ahead, places second at Yale Nationals

New sports club turning heads, despite modest beginnings

As an employee at the Ralph S. O'Connor Recreation Center for the last two years, I have been in charge of signing up customers for squash and racquetball courts. Through this process, I have noticed that squash courts have been reserved more frequently than racquetball courts.

This high demand for squash courts has resulted in many people being turned down, due to full courts. The common interest in the sport of squash at Hopkins among the students led to the formation of JHU Club Squash.

JHU Club Squash was formed late in the fall semester of 2009. Assistant coach Steven Peever has been responsible in coaching the players and giving them much needed advice and support. Peever is a nationally-ranked squash player at Cornell, who is spending his fourth undergraduate year as a visiting student at Hopkins.

Freshmen Yen Theng Tan and Alistair Fatheazam are the captain and vice captain of the men's team, respectively. Freshman Sasha Guttentag is the captain of the women's team. The team is currently composed of about 10 active players, mostly undergrads. Top player, junior Ranjush Agarwal, had a lot of playing experience back in his home country of India.

Other players, such as freshman Ganesh Swaminathan and Tan, have experience playing squash in Singapore.

The team has been practicing about two times a week at the Meadow Mills Athletic Club, a

state-of-the-art facility located about a mile west of the Homewood Campus, by Druid Hill Park. Coach Peter Hefferman, who works at Meadow Mills, has been instrumental in the formation of JHU Club Squash. Not only has he been in charge of training the players, but he also has set up matches for the team.

JHU Club Squash had their first dry run in competitive squash recently, playing a game against the Naval Academy's junior varsity squad on Feb. 17.

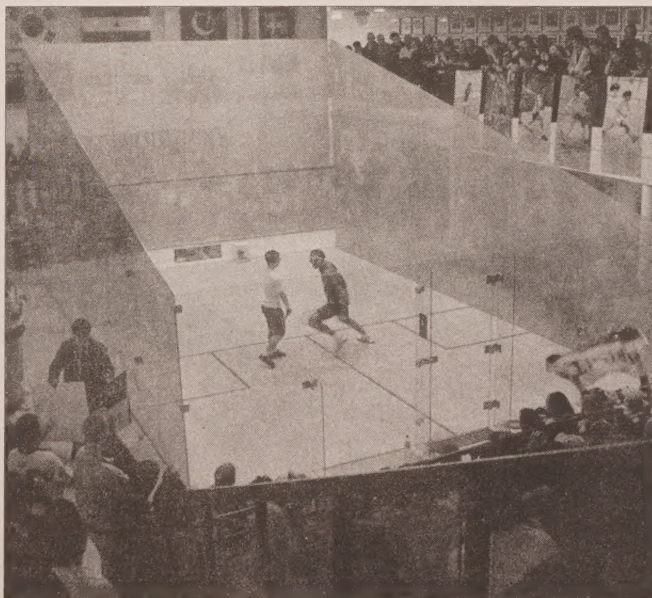
"It was a friendly, unofficial match," Tan said. "We lost handily, but it was still a good experience for us."

In a matter of days, JHU Club Squash went to play at the Squash Nationals at Yale. Since the University put a freeze on sports club funding due to economic concerns, the club has been completely unfunded by the school.

The players received a small grant from the National College Squash Association, but had to pay most of the costs for lodging, transport and registration themselves. Transport to New Haven was provided by Hefferman's van.

In the Nationals, schools competed according to division, and Hopkins was placed in the Emerging Teams Division. In order for JHU Club Squash to get promoted into the G division (the next highest), the club will have to sport a nine-man team.

On Saturday, Feb. 20, JHU Club Squash had their first two games of the tournament. They defeated Illinois-Springfield 5-0,



COURTESY OF YEN THENG TAN

Hopkins Club Squash placed second in the Emerging Teams Division two weeks ago.

but lost to Tulane 3-2. The next day, Sunday, Feb. 21, the team had to play the two other schools in the Emerging Teams Division. Hopkins swept the games for the day, defeating Siena 5-0 and Ithaca 4-1.

Overall, the team placed second out of the five schools, runner-up to undefeated Tulane. Even though Tulane was top of the division, Hopkins won more overall games than Tulane, 17 to 13. The team received a finalist trophy and certificates at the end of the tournament.

Members of JHU Club Squash saw their showing at the Nationals as an optimistic sign for the future.

"Coming in a close — a very, very close — second, shows the

potential of the Hopkins squash team to move into the G, or even F decisions," Peever said.

"It was a great result for us. To come back with silverware on our very first attempt at the Nationals is a respectable achievement," Tan said.

The future looks bright for JHU Club Squash. Such a promising performance in the Nationals shows that there will be much more success down the line.

JHU Club Squash is looking for more members to play on the team. If you love squash, and want to play competitively against other schools, this is the perfect way of getting involved.

If you are interested in joining JHU Club Squash, contact Yen Theng Tan at ytan5@jhu.edu.

SPORTS

THIS DAY IN SPORTS
March 4, 1941- NHL Chicago goalie Samuel LoPresti stops a record 80 goals out of 83 shots.
March 4, 1970- Jacksonville is the first college basketball team to average over 100 points per game.

CALENDAR
SATURDAY
W. Lacrosse vs. Harvard 1 p.m.
M. Lacrosse vs. Princeton 1:30 p.m.
TUESDAY
M. Lacrosse vs. UMBC 7 p.m.

M. lax wins on Kimmel's clutch last-minute shot



COURTESY OF JAY VANRENSELAER

With the game tied 7-7, senior Michael Kimmel sent shot by Siena goalie Brent Kelly, winning the game for Hopkins 8-7. The Nest saw the home team win their third-straight game of the season, and remain undefeated. Read about the game more in detail inside. See Page B11.

W. tennis takes 8th at Indoor Championship

By LYNDON O'CONNOR
Staff Writer

sophomore Mallory Willenborg, 10-5. This placed the Jays in the consolation bracket, where they faced tournament host DePauw on Saturday.

The Hopkins women's tennis team, ranked 10th nationally, faced a challenging test in the first match of the ITA Division III National Indoor Championship. They squared off against fifth-ranked Washington & Lee Generals. The Jays played well, but fell to the Generals 9-0, placing them in the consolation bracket.

Washington & Lee looked to be in control from the beginning and swept the three doubles matches to take a 3-0 lead. Jen Snyder and Blair Brzeski were the first to put the Generals on the board, with an 8-1 win over Jays' freshmen Renata Smith and Ariel Seval at third.

The Generals then scored again, with players Ann Morris and Lauren Lukas defeating the Hopkins freshman Nandita Krishnan and sophomore Carolyn Warren, 8-2 at first.

The doubles matches were then wrapped up, with the Generals scoring again. This time, Lauren Claire and Trelsie Sadler beat junior Yasmine Elamir and freshman Candace Wu 8-4 at second, placing the score at 3-0.

Claire then scored for the Generals with a straight sets win against Warren at first, 6-1 and 6-3. Clinching the match for the Generals was Morris with a 6-2, 6-4 win at second against Jays' senior Anita Bhamidipati.

Lukas again scored for W&L in a tough win against Krishnan at third. While Lukas won the first set 6-1, Krishnan battled to win the second set 7-6, forcing a third set tie breaker, which Lukas then won.

Brzeski pushed the score to 6-0, with a 6-4, 6-2 win at fourth over Seval and Sadler, then extended the lead to seven, winning 6-0, 7-5 at sixth over freshman Andrea Berlinghof. The Washington & Lee win was sealed by Snyder, who defeated Hopkins

SEE W. TENNIS, PAGE B10

Track performs well in the CC Championships

By JEFFREY ZHU
Sports Editor

In the Centennial Conference Indoor Track Championships this past weekend, the Hopkins track teams gave several solid performances.

When the dust settled, the women's track team placed second out of ten schools, while the men's team placed fifth out of nine.

"I miss the team and am proud of how well they have been doing, as I root from the sidelines," said Nadia McMillan, a former track runner who graduated early, but tagged along to cheer on her friends.

"Coach Bobby [Van Allen] does a great job of whipping everyone into shape during indoor, and the team really rises to the challenge. Even in blizzard conditions, everyone tried to find a way to work out," she added.

The women's team did well on the field events, scoring 34.5 points off of them. In the long jump, Paula Osborn picked up a third place finish, with a jump of 15-11.

Three freshmen placed in the pole vault: Emily Kashka placed second, Chery Yeung placed sixth and Tracy Will placed seventh.

In the final field event, shot put, freshman Alana Merkow was the runner-up with a toss of 28-10.25. Senior Krystina Laucik and sophomore Stephanie Amalfi finished fourth and sixth, respectively.

The Lady Jays excelled in the distance running events. In the one-mile run, senior Laura Paulsen finished in second place, with a time of 5:11.04. Freshman Liz Provost placed fourth, with a time of 5:17.99.

Paulsen was not ready to leave the championships without winning first in an event, proven by her first place finish in the 5000M run.

She finished six seconds in front of her only threat in the race, Dickinson's Catherine Campbell. Sophomore Cecelia

Furlong (News-Letter staff writer) placed fifth in the race.

In the distance medley relay, the team of Provost, freshman Amelia Vallenilla, sophomore Marie Ferguson and senior Mary O'Grady won first, with a time of 12:40.82.

The women's team also had some strong showings in the

and we really had some great performances, incredible effort and tireless support from everyone," Mikkilineni said.

"Even though our girls fell a bit short of defeating Haverford, I am incredibly proud of our whole team!"

"We thought we had a good shot of winning and had the

In the pole vault, Matt Trachtenberg achieved the only first-place finish for the Hopkins men's team. Freshman Kevin Keenahan was a close second, and Kurt Scanameo placed sixth. Shot putters sophomore Luke Sand and junior Ryan Lino picked up fifth and sixth places respectively.

"Going into the meet, there was a lot of pressure because there was another competitor who had jumped the same height that I did this season (14')," Trachtenberg explained.

"I am a first year Master's student, so this is my last year on the track team. I knew I had the potential to get my first gold medal and I knew I wouldn't get another chance like this again."

"As it turns out, I won the meet with my first jump because my rival failed to clear a height and the only other person to clear the height (13' 4") was my teammate Kevin Keenahan," Trachtenberg said.

"The pole vaulters earned almost a quarter of our points so I was really proud of our performance and of our coach, Norm Ayen."

In the 5000M run, cross-country phenom Steve Tobochnik finished in fifth place, with a time of 14:59.64, breaking up a top seven mold of Haverford and Dickinson runners.

The team of Brandon Hahn, James Walker, Stephen Sihelnik (News-Letter staff writer) and Graham Belton competed in the distance medley relay, placing fourth with a team time of 10:45.30.

SEE TRACK, PAGE B10



COURTESY OF PETER HOULIHAN

Senior Mary O'Grady (left) won first in the distance medley relay event last week.

shorter-distance track events.

In the 4x200m relay, the team of Vallenilla, Osborn, Leah Siberer and Tara Berglund got the silver, with a team time of 1:46.82. Osborn placed fourth in the 400M dash, with a time of 1:00.29.

In the 200, Vallenilla and Osborn had sixth and seventh placings. The shortest sprint of them all, the 55M dash, featured stalwarts Osborn and Berglund, in third and fifth places, respectively.

Overall, the Hopkins women's track team finished second out of ten schools, with a score of 113.5. Haverford got the gold with a whopping 148 points, while Muhlenberg picked up bronze with 97 points.

"The team worked really hard all year to prepare for this meet

depth to get more points than we ended up with, but then Haverford surprised us in some events and beat us in the end," Paulsen said.

"Despite a second place finish, we had some amazing performances by everyone, especially the shot putters."

"Everyone was cheering until they got hoarse, they gave it their all in their events, and had a great attitude and were so enthusiastic. We couldn't have had a better day," she added.

The men's team scored points on three field events, scoring 36.5 points out of them. In the high jump, freshman Lanre Adekola and sophomore Matt Stankiewicz both finished with jumps of 6-00.75. Adekola eventually took fourth on a tiebreaker, Stankiewicz taking fifth.

INSIDE

W. Lacrosse: Strong play, came up short

After coming out strong, the W. lacrosse team loses their last two games to move to 1-2. A dramatic overtime game against Princeton almost ended up in a victory for the Blue Jays. **Page B10**

Curling: Shuffleboard on Ice

Many of us have been hooked on the fascinating winter Olympic sport that is curling. See what else goes into it and what it takes to be an world-class curler. **Page B10**

Athlete of the Week: Candace Rossi

Sophomore Candace Rossi is an offensive machine for the Jays. See her accomplishments and what she hopes to gain from this season. **Page B11**



FILE PHOTO

Yasmine Elamir defeated Carnegie Mellon's Jennifer Chui in singles competition.

BLUE JAY ATHLETICS SCOREBOARD

M. LACROSSE	W. BASKETBALL	W. TENNIS
Sunday, Feb. 28:	Wednesday, Feb. 24:	Eighth at ITA National Indoor Championship
<i>Sienna</i> 7	<i>Dickinson</i> 64	
<i>Hopkins</i> 8	<i>Hopkins</i> 44	
W. LACROSSE	W. TRACK	Friday, Feb. 26:
Wednesday, Feb. 24:	Saturday, Feb. 27:	<i>Washington & Lee</i> 9
<i>Georgetown</i> 15	<i>Centennial Conference Championships- 2nd/10</i>	<i>Hopkins</i> 0
<i>Hopkins</i> 9	M. TRACK	Saturday, Feb. 27:
Saturday, Feb. 27:	Saturday, Feb. 27:	<i>DePauw</i> 8
<i>Princeton</i> 10	<i>Centennial Conference Championships- 5th/10</i>	<i>Hopkins</i> 1
<i>Hopkins</i> 9		<i>Carnegie Mellon</i> 7
		<i>Hopkins</i> 2